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LOK SABHA

Saturday, April 15, 1961/Chaitra 25, 1883 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Speaker: There is no question hour today.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): It is very unfortunate.

Mr. Speaker: That is why we have no quorum.

Shri C. D. Pande (Naini Tal): That is the most interesting hour.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(i) The Rajasthan Rice (Export Control) Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 472 dated the 4th April, 1961. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-2840/61].

(ii) Notification No. G.S.R. 503, dated the 5th April, 1961 rescinding—

(a) The Bombay Wheat (Movement Control) Order, 1956;

(b) The Inter-Zonal Wheat Movement Control, Order, 1957;

(c) The Wheat (South Zone Export Control) Order, 1958;

(d) The West Bengal Wheat (Export Control) Order, 1958;

(e) The Delhi (Restriction on Import of Wheat Atta) Order, 1959; and

(f) The Delhi Wheat and Wheat Products (Export Control) Order, 1959. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-2841/61].

(iii) The Manipur Food grains (Movement) Control Amendment Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 504 dated the 5th April, 1961. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-2842/61].

(iv) The Bihar Foodgrains (Movement Control) Amendment Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 505, dated the 5th April, 1961. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-2843/61].

(v) The Uttar Pradesh Foodgrains (Restrictions on Border Movement) Amendment Order, 1961, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 506, dated the 5th April, 1961. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-2844/61].

(vi) The Rajasthan Foodgrains (Restrictions on Border Movement) Amendment Order,

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 507, dated the 5th April, 1961. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-2845/61].

(vii) The Madhya Pradesh Foodgrains (Restrictions on Border Movement) Second Amendment Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 508, dated the 5th April, 1961. [*Placed in Library. See* No. Lt-2846/61].

(viii) Notification No. G.S.R. 509, dated the 5th April, 1961 cancelling the Assam Wheat and Wheat Products (Export) Control Order, 1959. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-2847/61].

(ix) Notification No. G.S.R. 510 dated the 5th April, 1961 cancelling the West Bengal Wheat or Wheat Products (Restrictions on Rail Bookings) Order, 1959. [*Placed in Library. See* LT-2848/61].

(x) The Madhya Pradesh Roller Mills (Regulation of Use of Wheat) Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 511 dated the 6th April, 1961. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-2849/61].

(xi) The Bihar Foodgrains (Movement Control) Second Amendment Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 512 dated the 10th April, 1961. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-2850/61].

11·03 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House for the week commencing 17th April, 1961, will consist of:—

(1) Further discussion and voting of Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

(2) Discussion and voting of Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Finance.

(3) Submission of the outstanding Demands for Grants to the vote of the House.

(4) Consideration and passing of—

The Finance Bill, 1961.

The Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Amendment Bill, 1961.

The Marking of Heavy Packages (Amendment) Bill, 1960.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): What about the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Department of Parliamentary Affairs?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: The Committee did not suggest it. If you like, we may discuss it along with the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Speaker: That is true. If we pursue this course, it will be much better, instead of discussing all the departments and Ministries every year. Further, there is no time, however much we may go on extending the time. Some time back we started with 60 hours. Now we have increased it to 130 hours. I am requesting the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that, God willing, next time two days may be allotted for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Even then, we may not be able to satisfy all hon. Members here who want to participate. Therefore, the only course is to ap-

point a committee and make that committee select particular Ministries during the course of that period, as the Estimates Committee does now. It will be useful to the Ministries also. Instead of random criticism against them, they will know what exactly is the constructive criticism. Also, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is such an innocuous Minister that I think there is hardly any occasion for any criticism of his department, of all the Ministries.

Shri C. D. Pande (Naini Tal): He is gentle and noble.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: It is not such an innocuous department. Last time, the calling of the Rajya Sabha had entailed expenditure to the tune of Rs. 70,000. We can discuss that aspect of it.

Mr. Speaker: Even that was discussed.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: There was a long discussion. If even after that, the hon. Member has not got any light, I cannot help him.

Mr. Speaker: Very well.

11:05 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—*Contd.*

MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL—*Contd.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel. Shri Nuashir Bharucha, who is now in possession of the House, may continue his speech.

An Hon. Member: He is not present.

Mr. Speaker: All right. Dr. Krishnaswami.

Dr. Krishnaswami (Chingelput): Mr. Speaker, the development of power resources is a pre-condition for industrial and agricultural progress. At present the modern sources of power—coal, electricity and oil—do not figure except marginally in our pattern of power consumption; only 18 per cent. is met out of these three important sources of power, and out of this, 75 per cent. is derived from coal alone. The dispersal of industries in the various parts of our country is affected by lack of power; and oil as a source of power can play a major part, since coal is concentrated only in a few regions and is costly to transport to the distant parts of our country. As for hydro-electric power, it has been exploited to the full and the law of diminishing returns has set in.

I should like to ask certain questions to the Ministry. What are our requirements of oil today? What are they going to be five years hence? What are our arrangements presently and in the future for meeting these requirements? What are the economic implications of having to import substantial quantities of oil? Up to the present, no clear answer has emerged after considering all these aspects and issues together. In general terms, today's demand for oil is round-about 6 million tons, most of which is refined within our country. Less than one-tenth is produced locally and this is done at Naharkatia, and the rest is imported at a cost of Rs. 80 crores to 90 crores. The demand for oil even today is larger, and if oil or gas were available it would help materially to meet the power requirements of industry, apart from providing a sound nucleus for the development of petro-chemical industries.

The demand for oil must certainly be expected to increase within the next five years. On present conservative estimates, it appears that we would require about 14 million tons a year by 1966. Even if the whole of it were refined at home, the import bill for crude oil would be of the order of Rs. 200 crores. If the refining capacity falls short of this target, the import bill would be larger.

The basic issues which we have to

[Dr. Krishnaswami]

face are: What are we doing to increase domestic production of oil? What are we doing to augment refining capacity within our country? It is apparent that no predictions can be made regarding production of oil within our country since, in the very nature of things, oil production is a gamble. But the country would like to be assured clearly and unambiguously is that no ideological considerations stand in the way of the search for oil. It is obvious that in a country of the size of India the task of exploration is a gigantic one and the more extensive the search, the greater the chances of our achieving results. We are relatively new in the field of oil exploration and we should train Indian expertise as quickly as possible, we must rely upon the existing stock of knowledge and experience of the major oil producers. Of course, it would be in our national interest not to permit any monopoly in the field of oil. That is why we must have a clear perception of what the terms of agreements should be. But it is equally in our national interest to explore all the various possibilities of striking oil, and striking it quickly.

What is, our present position? Let us realise that while we have to obtain the best terms, we have to obtain them with an eye on time. Up to the present, the Ministry has not thought of time at all as a factor. It is possible that protracted negotiations may give better terms, but *ad hoc* agreements may be much better in the sense that every month that is spent in negotiating for better terms is going to cost the country dear in the shape of foreign exchange if more crude oil or refined oil has to be imported, because it has taken us longer to arrive at the most satisfactory terms, and the less money we will have for maintenance, imports and raw materials. The whole of our industrial development may be held to ransom because of our lack of perspective of time as a visible factor.

Now, it may be suggested that we should try hard to bargain with the oil interests. I know that it requires deftness to negotiate with tough oil interests.

But in all these matters, as I have pointed out, we should have an eye on the time factor. For instance, in Naharkatiya about 5 or 6 years ago it was distinctly suggested that those resources were sufficient and good enough for commercial exploitation. But for about three or four years we went on spending the time in negotiations and, of course, as a result of the time that we spent we probably got somewhat better terms from the oil interests. But let us at the same time realise that in these 3 to 4 years we lost at least Rs. 60 crores of foreign exchange, a loss which will have to be set off against the gain of 8·1|3 per cent. in profit that we obtained by prolonged negotiations.

As for the Barauni and Nunmati public sector refineries, we must realise that they are not adequate for processing crude oil. Let us also realise that all these new refining plants will have to be aid financed and we need not have any qualms by whom they are financed. For instance, it is pointed out that the Soviet Union has undertaken to give us Rs. 180 crores of loan for the purpose of industrial development in the Third Five-Year Plan. We welcome any loan or aid which comes from any quarter. But I should like to point out to my hon. friend that this is the ceiling or the upper limit that the Soviet Union has given us. If we are going to spend about Rs. 120 crores on the two refineries, we will have less of loans for other purposes. In all these matters, there must be a sense of proportion and a sense of perspective which, unfortunately, is totally lacking in the Oil Ministry. This delay is costing our country dear. Oil today is more valuable than oil tomorrow or the day after and it is necessary that the Ministry should realise the importance of this factor.

I understand that as a result of the lack of power not only will we be laming our industries by making them work at less than full utilisation capacity but we will also be starving them because our naw material imports cannot be imported to the same extent. More important, let us realise that the policy which we are following (which might be justified if it were viewed in isolation without taking into account the overall interests of the country) has led and might lead to many investors abroad taking a dim view about our seriousness in meeting the requirements of power in our country. They may, therefore, delay investing in our country or seek other areas to invest.

What does it really amount to? With one hand we are giving investors incentives and we are welcoming their collaboration in different branches of activity, and by another stroke as a result of the delay in policy that we are pursuing as a result of our not having a proper sense of proportion we are preventing practically investors from coming and investing in our country. I therefore suggest that in taking a proper view of this question the Oil Minister should not consider his Ministry to be an empire in itself, but should take an overall view of the greater interests of our country.

I know that in all these matters there is a great deal of prejudice. Fear of oil companies and oil interests is endemic. We ought to be always on our guard in negotiating with them the terms but we have also to realise that the urgency of development is pressing. We ought to be prepared to come to terms soon; otherwise many of our schemes will be held up and we would be finding ourselves in more difficulties than we had bargained for. It is perfectly true that some people have suggested that everything can be done without relying purely on oil. Of course, if what is said is true then we certainly would have to revise our point of view. From the point of view of statistics let us realise that our position is very very poor. I make bold to quote some of the statistics that have been furnished by the Planning Commission. The consumption of energy in terms of coal equivalent in 1959 was 137 kilograms per year per head in India. The corresponding figures are 7,640 kilograms for USA, 5,137 kilograms for Canada, 4741 kilograms for the UK and 3,438 kilograms for West Germany. Even a relatively poorer country like Japan has a *per capita* per year consumption of energy of 860 kilograms and the figure for Yugoslavia is 690 kilograms. Let these figures be digested by the Oil Minister. Let Government realise that it is necessary that in all these matters while it is absolutely essential that we should not build up monopoly interests we should also have an eye on time and not merely be swayed by ideological considerations.

The main thing which is necessary in these days—and I say it without any fear of contradiction—is that we should supply enough power facilities to our many industries. Particularly since we are stressing the need for regional and balanced development it is essential that power should be provided for many of these industries so that they may be in a position to really cater to the needs of our community. I hope that these facts will be borne in mind by the Government and that they will adopt a more realistic approach to these problems and not attempt to merely think that they are considering only one aspect of the problem. It is essential that when we are considering problems of development we should also consider the impact of the policy in one region on the other regions of our development. I hope that the Ministry will ponder over the fact that I have presented for their consideration.

Shri Jaganatha Rao (Koraput): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to offer a few remarks about the oil industry in our country and the oil policy of the Government of India. The consumption of oil is an index of technical

[Shri Jaganatha Rao]

advancement of a nation. Oil refineries have become a mark of industrialisation in undeveloped countries. Oil is included in Schedule A of the Industrial Policy Resolution and as such the entire process of exploration to marketing should be in the public sector. I know the hon. Minister, Shri Malaviya, is alive to this problem and has made the country oil-conscious. I might also say that he has created in me an interest to study this subject and today I am in a position to offer some friendly criticism.

At the outset, I would say that credit goes to the hon. Minister for succeeding in making the private foreign companies to agree to give up duty protection and also to reduce the price of imported crude as also in making them agree to refine our crude oil.

I have a feeling that the oil policy of the Government of India is not firm and is still in a formative stage. It is not keeping pace with the economic development of the country. The oil industry is not given its due place in the Plan. The speed at which exploration is going on will take us a long time to explore and prospect the required quantity of crude oil to enable us to refine this crude into petrol and petroleum products.

At present the production of crude oil is confined to the Assam oil fields and still we are not on firm ground with regard to Cambay and Ankleshwar. India's requirement of petroleum products in terms of crude is about 8 million tons now. It is likely to rise to 14 million tons by the end of the Third Plan period calculated at the present rate of growth. Obviously as our economy develops this rate itself may get accelerated. The present production of crude is entirely confined to Assam oil fields and is of the order of 0·6 million tons feeding the Digboi refinery. The proven resources justify the output of 4 to 5 million tons, but in the immediate future we will have a refining capacity only to the extent of 3 million tons from the two public sector refineries and the Digboi refinery. Even after the public sector refineries go into production there is still a shortfall. The private sector refineries in our country have a capacity of 5·6 million tons. Still we are left with a deficit of 6 milion tons of crude and 3 million tons of petroleum products, which we have to import every year till 1966. Therefore it would not be correct to say that the gap between the demand and production is very little and that it can be easily made up. I would like to know what the hon. Minister has to say in this regard, how Government expects to fill up this gap between the demand and the refining capacity in our country at present.

Sir, the Naharkotiya oil was assessed some time in 1953. It has taken us nearly eight or nine years to plan the setting up of two public sector refineries. Much valuable time has been lost and also much of foreign exchange. The Minister may have some valid reasons for this long delay of eight or nine years. Whatever be the reasons, the nation has lost valuable foreign exchange and also a lot of valuable time. I would suggest to the hon. Minister to see that the history of Assam does not repeat itself in Cambay and Ankleshwar.

Before formulating our oil policy, Government should first take care to intensify efforts to find more oil in the country. It is said that we have about 400,000 square miles of oil-bearing areas in our country. But we have not got the surveys made. Secondly, proper surveys should be carried out for estimating the needs and pattern of consumption in the country for two decades to come, so that a proper plan regarding the refining capacity could be formulated. It is no good setting up refineries without being in a position to know

the actual crude oil that will be available, and without knowing the pattern of consumption in the country. Therefore, a five year plan is not sufficient in the case of oil. We must study the trend of oil consumption and pattern of oil consumption in the country for a period of twenty or twenty-five years and then plan our refining capacity.

Sir, in the oil refining industry, optimum efficiency is reached by increasing the size of a refinery to a range of 5 to 10 million tons. This trend obtains in the United States as well as in the USSR. Small and medium-scale refineries are not economical. Political and regional considerations should not come into play in locating refineries. The Barauni and Nunmati refineries would have been more economical if they could have been located at one place.

My hon. friend Shri Vittal Rao suggested yesterday that two small refineries in Gujerat should be set up. I would like to tell my hon. friend that to set up small and medium-sized refineries is not at all economical. First we should assess the availability of crude in a particular region, the type of crude, the quality of oil that is available and the products that would be produced by refining this crude. It is said that it would take some more time to assess the actual commercial potentialities at Ankleshwar and Cambay regions; Some more wells will have to be drilled and the quality will have to be tested. Before then, I do not see any point in saying that a two million ton refinery is going to be set up in the Cambay region. Therefore, let us be on firm ground, and till we know the amount of crude, the quality, after analysis of it is done, so that we can plan our refineries to meet the demands and the patterns of consumption in our country.

The demand pattern in our country for some years to come is heavily in favour of middle distilleries, while the end products largely depends upon the composition of the crude. Production pattern can be changed by changing the design and pattern of a refinery. The cost of construction of the Barauni refinery is said to be Rs. 38·2 crores. According to me it is very high. Its capacity is about 2 million tons. For preparation of project report it is said USSR is entitled to Rs. 1·18 crores as commission. This is very high in my opinion. I do not know if other friendly foreign countries have been requested to submit their plans and designs and whether the plans and designs submitted by the USSR Government are up-to-date and will compare favourably with other technical and scientific requirements which are obtaining in other parts of the world.

Likewise, Sir, the cost of construction of the Assam Refinery is about Rs. 18 crores, while its capacity is only 0·75 million tons. Here again, we do not know the technological and scientific quality of the equipment of this refinery, whether it compares favourably with those obtaining in the United States and other parts of the world.

I would suggest that the marketing of petroleum products produced by the private foreign companies should also be taken over by the Indian Oil Company. For that, Government should negotiate with the foreign companies. I know there are some terms in the existing agreements which are not favourable to us, because these agreements were entered into in 1951 before our Industrial Policy Resolution was adopted by this House. Now it is open to Government to negotiate and see that these unfavourable terms and conditions are waived by them; because the foreign companies are composed of businessmen and no businessman will ever be so foolhardy or rigid in his approach and he would like to continue his business with such alternations and modifications in the terms as will be suitable and to the advantage of both the

[Shri Jaganatha Rao]

parties. I would suggest that the negotiations with these foreign companies should be conducted in a friendly atmosphere and a climate should be created that foreign capital is not scared away. My hon. friend Dr. Krishnaswami has referred to it in a way.

I have a feeling that, rightly or wrongly, there is an impression abroad that the foreign companies are being cornered and they are not treated properly. This criticism may not be right, but nevertheless it is open to Government to see that these companies waive some conditions in our favour, so that they rafine our crude, but we market the products that are produced by these foreign companies. The fears in foreign countries should be allayed. As my hon. friend Dr. Krishnaswami has referred already, we should establish goodwill and create a climate for friendly relations with foreign countries.

Sir, the Indian Oil Company which came into existence on the 30th June 1959 is to undertake the distribution and marketing of petroleum products. So far no arrangements have been made to store the products that we are importing from the Soviet Union. An integrated scheme both for storage of these products and also for distribution throughout the country has to be drawn up not only at the ports but also in the hinterland. No time should be lost in arriving at certain plans for developing marketing facilities and distribution all over the country.

I would suggest that there should be an integrated form of management of the State-owned oil industry, because there are three companies, namely Oil India, the Refineries Limited and the Indian Oil Company. The management should be so integrated that we get efficient and the maximum good working of these firms at all stages, that is from the stage of exploration to that of refinery and distribution. All these three companies may be separate companies, but the management should be so integrated that we get optimum efficiency in all spheres.

It is said that the crude oil from Cambay and Ankleshwar will be transported to Bombay by rail to be refined in the Stanvac refinery. I think the railways have been claiming at the rate of Rs. 58 per ton for a distance of 300 miles. This comes to Rs. 2 crores a year for transporting one million tons. For six years it will be Rs. 12 crores. The laying of pipeline may be expensive; also, Cambay oil contains more of paraffin content, and it may not be possible to transport it by pipe-line. But I remember to have read in the press a suggestion by the Chamber of Commerce of Gujarat that a pipe-line to Bohr Rocks, which is at a distance of ten miles from Cambay, may be laid and that this crude can be shipped to Bombay. I do not know what the Government have done in this regard, or whether the Government have decided to transport this crude oil to Bombay by rail, which would be very expensive. I would like the hon. Minister to tell this House exactly what the Government thinks about this.

Nothing has so far been done about the setting up of a lubrication plant in the country. We have been losing valuable foreign exchange, and unless this is immediately taken up, the petroleum industry in this country will not be complete or self-sufficient.

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission, of course, is doing well, but not too well. It has its own limitations, namely the question of finance and the availability of technical personnel. Unless the activities of this Commission are intensified and accelerated, a few drops of oil here or a few mines there will not lead us anywhere. We may have a New

Year's gift of oil in Rudrasagar or another well at Ankleshwar on Baisakhi day. But that is not sufficient. We must have a continuous flow of crude oil in the regions where it is available. And the effort should be made continuously to see that we get the optimum and maximum quantity, so that we can plan our refineries in a proper manner and see that we become self-sufficient.

Of course, I have a word of praise for this Oil and Natural Gas Commission. I do know the handicaps of this Commission which may primarily be one of finance and technical skill. But the Government has to move in this regard and see that the Commission is given the proper strength and the means to go ahead with its responsibilities.

It is also said that the number of wells drilled in Cambay and Ankleshwar and Rudrasagar so far is considered insufficient for assessing the reserve of oil in these oilfields. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission will start production of crude oil at the rate of 1500 tons per day from Cambay and Ankleshwar oilfields in the last quarter of 1961. After trial production for some time and with the drilling of more wells it will be possible to work out in detail the total extent of the two oilfields and the possible resources therein. So, this is a long process. I do not know how many more years will be required to complete the drilling of other wells and get the oil tested so that we can know the quality of oil, the products that could be made therefrom and so on.

Therefore, I fail to understand the purpose in saying that we are going to have in Gujarat a two-million-tons refinery. Some time ago the hon. Minister said that a medium size refinery will be established in Gujarat with 0.5 to 1 million tons capacity. Now it is going to be 2 million tons. It is all right. But are we one firm ground when we are trying to have an oil refinery in Gujarat with the tests so for carried out?

Another thing I wish to submit is that there is an amount of sensationalism regarding oil. If a well is drilled and oil is found, it is said in the press that 'oil is discovered in Rudrasagar or Ankleshwar. There may be some oil, and if we go near the wells our clothes may get splashed by it. But the quantity of oil has to be ascertained. Otherwise I would not feel happy or take pride in it. Of course, nobody can find fault with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission or the hon. Minister, because mining operation is a gamble. We may go deep into the bowels of the earth and not find a drop of oil. It is not anybody's fault. The quantity of oil has to be ascertained before we declare that oil is discovered in a particular region.

At the same time, I am not happy at the way in which the press and some persons interested criticise if any mishap occurs in drilling operations. These mishaps are inherent in the operations. The other day in the Rudrasagar well some mishap happened. But much was made of it in the press. I do not appreciate it. I would call it anti-national to criticise, magnify or exaggerate a little mishap occurring here or there, which is quite inherent in the mining operations all over the world. So I would suggest that we should take a calm and dispassionate view of these things and do not for the sake of popularity or come forward with criticism without knowing the actual facts. It is a long and difficult process. It has to be gone through.

Lastly, before I conclude I would like to say a word about the Mines and Mineral Regulation Act of 1957. This Parliament passed this Act in December, 1957. I understand in Madhya Pradesh there is a firm called the Central Provinces Manganese Ores Limited, a company which was incorporated in London about the year 1900. This firm has a leasehold of the best manganese ore mines in

[Shri Jaganatha Rao]

the country, and I now understand that the leases have expired and this firm wants a renewal of the leases. I fail to see how it is possible for the Government to renew these leases for a further term. It comes under Schedule A of this Act and the Government itself should take over this mine, develop them and export the raw material or set up ferro-manganese plants all over the country. So Government should be firm on this matter. It is no good saying that we have the Industrial Policy Resolution, and at the same time, if any person comes, trying to be soft with him. I cannot understand this contradiction or this shifting of policies. Therefore, the policy of the Government of India regarding oil and mines should be firm; it should be dynamic. I am sure the hon. Minister in charge has the courage and the strength to pursue this policy with force and vigour.

श्री रामकृष्ण गुप्त (महेन्द्रगढ़)

अध्यक्ष महोदय, स्टील माइंज एण्ड फ्यूल मिनिस्ट्री उस सब काम के लिए जो इसने किया है, मुबारिकबाद की मुस्तहिक है। इन पिछले दस बारह सालों में जितनी एक्टिविटीज इस मिनिस्ट्री की बढ़ी हैं, जितना काम बढ़ा है शायद और किसी मिनिस्ट्री का नहीं बढ़ा है। इसकी वजह शायद यह है कि हमने माइंज को डिवेलेप करने के काम को और ज्योलोजिकल सर्वे के काम को काफ़ी बढ़ाया है। सन् १९४७ से पहले इन दिशाओं में बहुत ही लिमिटिड, बहुत ही महदूद काम किया गया था। लेकिन उसके बाद से इन कामों को बढ़ाने की बड़ी भारी कोशिश की गई है। मैं आपके सामने दो चार मिसालें रखूं तो आपको पता चल जाएगा कि किस कद्र काम बढ़ा है। ज्योलोजिकल सर्वे आफ़ इंडिया के काम को ही आप ले लीजिये। यह हमारे देश में आज से तकरीबन सौ साल पहले जारी किया गया था लेकिन देश के तमाम हिस्सों में जो मिनरल वैल्थ छिपी हुई थी, उसका पता लगाने की कोशिश नहीं की गई। अब यह काम बढ़ता ही जा रहा है। सन् १९५० तक ज्योलोजिस्ट की जो तादाद थी वह सिर्फ़ १३९ थी जो आज बढ़कर ५०० के करीब जा पहुंची है। लेकिन मैं यह महसूस करता हूं कि यह भी अभी काफ़ी नहीं है, और इसके लिए हमें और भी ज्यादा कोशिश करनी पड़ेगी। मिसाल के तौर पर सेकेन्ड फ़ाइव इयर प्लैन में इंडिविजुअल स्टेट्स की तरफ़ से जो प्रोग्राम्स आये थे, हम उन तमाम प्रोग्राम्स को फुलफिल नहीं कर सके। अब भी हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर काफ़ी हिस्से ऐसे मौजूद है जहां मिनरल वैल्थ छिपी हुई है, और उन को सर्वे करने की बहुत ज्यादा जरूरत है। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि अगर इस के लिए पूरी कोशिश की जाये तो कोई चीज़ ऐसी नहीं होगी जो हमको बाहर से इम्पोर्ट करनी पड़े। इस लिए मुझे इस के बारे में इतनी ही अपील करनी है कि इस प्रोग्राम का एक्स्पैन्शन किया जाय और ज्यादा से ज्यादा फैलाने की कोशिश की जाय।

जहां तक रिफाइनरीज़ का सवाल है उस के बारे में भी गवर्नमेंट की जो पालिसी है वह काबिले तारीफ़ है। मैं इस बात के लिए खास तौर पर ज़ोर दूंगा, और इसके लिए माननीय मंत्री जी ने पिछले दिनों हाउस में इस बात का यकीन भी दिलाया था कि प्राइवेट कम्पनीज जो एक्स्पैन्शन के लिए कोशिश करती हैं उन का एक्स्पैन्शन न किया जायेगा क्योंकि पिछले दिनों जब रशियन तेल का सवाल आया तो उन्होंने उसे साफ करने से इन्कार कर दिया। अगर आप उन लोगों को एक्स्पैन्शन की इजाजत भी देते हैं और हमारे देश के अन्दर जो तेल पैदा होगा

उस को साफ करने को उन से कहा गया तो उस में भी दिक्कत पैदा हो सकती है, इस का मुझे पूरा विश्वास है । आप को मुश्किलात का सामना करना पड़ेगा क्योंकि उन की पूरी कोशिश होगी जो आयल हमें यहां पर मिला है उस को रिफाइन करने का जो प्रोग्राम हो वह फ़ेल हो । इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि इस सजेशन पर स्ट्रिक्टली अमल किया जाय और उनको ज्यादा एक्स्पैन्शन की इजाजत न दी जाय ।

चौथी बात जो मैं इस के बारे में कहना चाहता हूं, वह यह है कि, जैसा कि मैं ने अभी कहा भी था, कि जियोलाजिकल सर्वे का जो प्रोग्राम है उसको बढ़ाने की कोशिश की जाय । सैकेन्ड फ़ाइव इअर प्लैन में इस के लिए ८ करोड़ ७० लाख रुपया मखसूस किया गया था लेकिन जहां तक सैकेन्ड फ़ाइव इअर प्लैन का सवाल है, मुझे कहना पड़ता है कि प्लैन के तीन सालों में सिर्फ़ २ करोड़ ७० लाख रुपया खर्च किया जा सका और अगले दो सालों में जो रुपया हम खर्च कर रहे हैं उस के बाद भी सैकेन्ड फ़ाइव इअर प्लैन का जितना रुपया है वह काफी बच जायेगा । इस के लिए भी थर्ड फ़ाइव इअर प्लैन में और ज्यादा प्रोग्राम बनाया जाय ताकि हम देश के तमाम हिस्सों का सर्वे कर सकें । मैं यह बात इसलिए कहता हूं कि आप को अगर मैं बताऊं तो हमारे देश के अन्दर बहुत से हिस्से अब भी ऐसे मौजूद हैं जिन के अन्दर मिनरल वैल्थ छिपी हुई है । आप खुद अन्दाजा लगा सकते हैं कि यह प्रोग्राम कितना लिमिटेड है । मेरी जो अपनी कांस्टिट्यूएंसी है उस के अन्दर भी इस किस्म की मिनरल वैल्थ छिपी हुई है । लेकिन बड़े दुःख की बात है कि उस को मालूम करने की अभी तक पूरी कोशिश नहीं की गई । पिछले दिनों "ट्रिब्यून" अखबार में एक आर्टिकल निकला था । उस के शुरू में, कहा गया था, मैं समझता हूं कि वह बिल्कुल सही है । उस में लिखा था :

> "If Punjab is ever going to meet its appointed destiny, the meeting ground in all probability will be Mahendragarh.".

जिस का मतलब यह है कि जिस तरीके से पंजाब ने खेती बाड़ी में तरक्की की है, अगर उसी तरीके से हम इंडस्ट्रीज में भी तरक्की करना चाहते हैं, तो इस के लिए एक ही तरीका है कि महेन्द्रगढ़ जिले के अन्दर, वहां की खुश्क रेत के नीचे और पहाड़ियों के नीचे जो मिनरल वैल्थ छिपी हुई है उसका सर्वे किया जाय । और उस को काम में लाया जाय । मैंने इस के लिए पिछले दिनों हाउस में बहुत से सवाल भी रक्खे थे और जब वहां पर पहले स्टेट्स बनी हुई थी उन दिनों वहां पर जो सर्वे हुआ था उस तमाम सर्वे की बिना पर में कह सकता हूं कि वहां पर आयरन ओर, सिल्वर, गोल्ड, लाइम, मार्बल, सैन्ड ग्लास, फेल्डस्पार और कैल्साइट वगैरह वगैरह काफी मिकदार में मौजूद है । यही नहीं बल्कि रेअर मिनरल्स जैसे यूरेनियम और प्लूटोनियम भी काफी मिकदार में मौजूद है । इस लिए मेरी अपील है कि थर्ड फ़ाइव इअर प्लैन के दौरान में इस जिले के सर्वे के लिए एक पूरा प्रोग्राम बनाया जाय । इस इलाके को डिवेलप करने के लिए यही एक तरीका हो सकता है क्योंकि वहां पानी की आजकल कमी है और इंडस्ट्रीज के जरिये ही उस इलाके को ऊपर उठाया जा सकता है और जो इलाका अन्दर डेवेलप्ड है उस को देश के दूसरे हिस्सों के बराबर लाया जा सकता है ।

इस के बारे में मैं यहां भी कहना चाहता हूं कि जो हमारा इलाका आज अन्दर डेवेलप्ड है उस का कारण पोलिटिकल और हिस्टारिकल भी है । यानी वहां के लोगों ने सन् १८५७ की पहली आजादी की लड़ाई में सब जोरों से हिस्सा लिया । उस रोज

[श्री रामकृष्ण गुप्त]

से लेकर आज तक वहां के बहुत से अफसरों के दिमागों में वही पुरानी जहनियत काम कर रही है और उस इलाके की तरक्की के लिए पूरा ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि अगर इतने मिनरल्स पंजाब के किसी दूसरे इलाके जालन्धर या अमृतसर में होते तो वह कभी का जमशेदपुर या टाटानगर बन जाता। इस लिए मैं खास तौर पर इस बात के लिए अपील करता हूं कि इस सिलसिले में पूरा जोर दिया जाय और इस के लिए मैं दो चार तजवीजें भी पेश करना चाहता हूं।

मेरी सब से पहली तजवीज यह है कि एक पिग आयरन प्लैन्ट वहां पर आसानी से लगाया जा सकता है। पिछले दिनों माननीय मंत्री जी ने भी इस मसले पर हमदर्दी से गौर करने का यकीन दिलाया था। वहां पर आयरन और काफी मिकदार में मौजूद है। पिछले दिनों जब वहां छोटी छोटी स्टेट्स बनी हुई थीं तो एक ब्रिटिश जियोलाजिस्ट मि० जर्विस वहां आये थे। उन का कहना था कि वहां पर २० मिलियन टन के करीब लोहा मौजूद है, जिसकी क्वालिटी बहुत अच्छी है। इसलिए मेरी अपील है कि इस के लिए पूरी कोशिश की जाय।

दूसरी बात यह है कि मैं ने अभी जिक्र किया था कि वहां पर यूरेनियम काफी मिकदार में मौजूद है। उस को भी मालूम करने की कोशिश की जाय। मैं इस बात पर इसलिए बहुत जोर देता हूं कि थर्ड फ़ाइव इयर प्लैन में अगर यह स्कीम हो कि नार्दर्न इंडिया में सेकेन्ड ऐटामिक पावर स्टेशन बनाया जाय, और मेरे इलाके में यूरेनियम को पूरी खोज की गई, तो उस जगह से अच्छा दूसरा मकाम हमारी सरकार को नहीं मिल सकता। यही वजह है कि मैं इस बात पर बहुत जोर देता हूं।

इस के बाद मैं ग्राउंड वाटर के बारे में कहना चाहता हूं। मैं इस मसले को हाउस के अन्दर कई दफ़ा ला चुका। आज भी इसके बारे में यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो हमारे जिले की हालत है उस में खेती बाड़ी का सवाल नहीं, बल्कि लोग पीने के पानी के लिए भी तड़पते हैं। गर्मी के मौसम में और सर्दियों में वहां पानी नहीं मिलता। जो थोड़ी बहुत बरसात होती है उस के पानी को ही वहां के लोग जमा कर लेते हैं और साल भर उस पर गुजारा करते हैं। आप खुद महसूस करेंगे कि इस से ज्यादा मुसीबत और क्या हो सकती है। इस के लिए एक ही तरीका है कि वहां जो अन्डर ग्राउंड वाटर रिसोर्सेज हैं उन का सर्वे किया जाय और पानी मालूम करने की कोशिश की जाय। इस बात के लिए मैं ज्यादा जोर इसलिए भी देता हूं कि पिछले दिनों जो कोशिश की गई वह ज्यादातर सड़कों के साथ साथ ही तजुर्बा करने की थी। लेकिन सड़कें जो इस जिले में बनी हुई हैं उन के साथ साथ पहाड़ों का सिलसिला भी बना हुआ है। इस लिए वह तजुर्बा नाकामयाब हो गया। अगर उस इलाके के दूसरे हिस्सों में, इंटीरियर में, कोशिश की जाती तो काफी पानी मिल सकता था। इसलिए मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि इस के लिए कोशिश की जायेगी।

आखिर में दो चार बातें जो हमारी लीज देने की पालिसी है उस के बारे में भी कहना चाहता हूं, क्योंकि मैं यह महसूस करता हूं कि इस पालिसी पर स्ट्रिक्टली अमल नहीं हो रहा है। हाउस में भी यह चीज आ चुकी कि हमारी रिन्यूअल पालिसी है कि हम कम से कम लाइसेंसेज को रिन्यू करेंगे। मुझे यह बात इसलिए कहनी पड़ रही है कि आज हमारे देश में बहुत सी ऐसी फ़ारेन फर्म मौजूद हैं जो कि इन माइन्स की मोनोपोली हासिल किये हुए हैं और हिन्दुस्तान का

लाखों रुपया फारेन एक्सचेन्ज की शक्ल में मुनाफ़े के तौर पर बाहर जा रहा है। इसके लिए मैं दूर नहीं जाना चाहता। एक ही मिसाल आप के सामने रखना चाहता हूं। हमारे देश में एक कम्पनी है जिसका नाम है सी० पी० एम० ओ० यानी सेंट्रल प्राविंसेज माइनिंग आरगेनाइज़ेशन। यह एक ब्रिटिश फ़र्म है। यह सन् १९०० में कायम की गयी थी जिसको आज से तक रीबन ६१ साल हो गए। इस अरसे में इस कम्पनी ने कितना मुनाफा उठाया होगा और कितनी दौलत बाहर जा चुकी होगी, इसका आप अन्दाज़ा लगा सकते हैं। अभी भी वह इस बात के लिए दबाव डलवाने की कोशिश कर रही है कि उसको और आगे के लिए माइनिंग का लाइसेंन्स दिया जाए। मैं इस के लिए अपील करूंगा कि हमें इसकी हरगिज इजाजत नहीं देनी चाहिये चाहे वह कानून से या किसी भी तरीके से कितनी ही दिक्कतें क्यों न पैदा करने की कोशिश करे। मैं यह बात इस लिए कहता हूं कि हमारी दो पालिसीज़ होनी चाहिए। एक पालिसी तो यह होनी चाहिये कि हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा फारिन फ़र्मों को इंडियनाइज़ करें ताकि उनका मुनाफ़ा हमारे देश में रहे और उससे हमारे देश के लोग फ़ायदा उठा सकें। दूसरे जो प्राइवेट मानोपलीज कब्जा जमाए बैठी हैं उन से यही नहीं कि वे फायदा उठा रही हैं बल्कि उनकी वजह से हमारे पबलिक सेक्टर की स्कीमों पर भी असर पड़ता है। हाउस में भी इस किस्म के सवाल कई बार आए हैं और पबलिक सेक्टर को डाइरेक्टली या इंडाइरेक्टली अंडरमाइन करने की कोशिश की जाती है, अगर आप चाहते हैं कि हमारा पबलिक सेक्टर कामयाब हो तो आपको इस तरफ़ सीरियसली ध्यान देना पड़ेगा और माइनिंग के बारे में जो हमारी लीज इश्यू करने की पालिसी है उसको रिव्यू करना होगा।

आखिर में मैं यही अपील करना चाहता हूं कि इस बात की मुकम्मल तौर पर कोशिश की जाय कि किसी भी फ़र्म को चाहे वह इंडियन हो या फ़ारेन हो फ़रदर लाइसेंस न दिया जाए, बल्कि उसको नेशनलाइज़ किया जाए।

श्री बजराज सिंह (फिरोजाबाद) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कोयले के सम्बन्ध में सरकार की नीति को पहले ही मन्त्री जी ने कल दुहरा दिया है। इसलिये मैं नहीं समझता कि अगर उसके सम्बन्ध में मैं ज्यादा कुछ कहूं तो उसका कोई लाभ होगा। लेकिन जहां तक कोयले का उत्पादन का सवाल है, मैं कुछ बातें जरूर कहना चाहता हूं।

यह मानते हुए जैसा कि मन्त्री जी कहते हैं, कि आज की सूरत में जो कोयले की खदानें प्राइवेट व्यक्तियों के हाथों में है उनका वह राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं करना चाहते, मैं यह चाहता हूं कि भविष्य में इस बात का ख्याल रखा जाना चाहिए कि जैसी आज परिस्थिति है वह न पैदा होने पावे जिसमें आप इन खदानों का राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं कर सकते और प्राइवेट लोग उन पर कब्जा जमा लें। नए क्षेत्र उनको न मिलें और उन क्षेत्रों में सरकार स्वयं उत्पादन करे।

जहां मैं यह चाहता हूं कि प्राइवेट लोगों पर इस प्रकार का प्रतिबन्ध लागू हो जाए, वहां मैं यह भी चाहता हूं कि तीसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना में कोयले का जो उत्पादन लक्ष्य रखा गया है उसको बढ़ाया जाए। पता नहीं कि किस तरह से योजना आयोग ने और सरकार ने इस बात का ध्यान नहीं रखा कि देश में जो औद्योगिक उत्पादन बढ़ाने की भावना पैदा हो रही है उसकी आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिये इतना कोयला काफी होगा या नहीं। मेरा ख्याल है कि जो तीसरी योजना के लिये ९ करोड़ २० लाख टन कोयले का उत्पादन लक्ष्य रखा गया है या देश की औद्योगिक आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिये

[श्री ब्रजराज सिंह]

काफी नहीं होगा, हमको अगली पंचवर्षीय योजना को ध्यान में रख कर ही नहीं बल्कि आने वाली बीस सालों की औद्योगिक आवश्यकताओं को ध्यान में रख कर कोयले के उत्पादन लक्ष्यों को निर्धारित करना चाहिये । हम को यह ध्यान में में रखना चाहिये कि सन् १९८१ में हमारी कोयले की क्या आवश्यकता होगी और उसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए हमें तीसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना के उत्पादन लक्ष्यों को निर्धारित करना चाहिये । मैं समझता हूं कि देश में जो औद्योगिक उत्पादन बढ़ाने की भावना पैदा हो रही है उसको देखते हुए हमको तीसरी योजना के आखिर तक १२ करोड़ टन कोयले के उत्पादन का लक्ष्य स्थिर करना चाहिये और सन् १९८१ के अन्त तक यह उत्पादन ४० करोड़ टन तक पहुंच जाना चाहिए । इस बीच में हम कह सकत हैं कि जो १२ करोड़ का लक्ष्य हम तीसरी योजना के लिये रखें उसको चौथी योजना में बढ़ा कर २० करोड़ टन कर दें । उसके बाद की योजना में हम ९ करोड़ टन और बढ़ा सकते हैं और आखिर में जो योजना सन् १९८१ में समाप्त होगी उसके लिये ११ करोड़ और बढ़ा कर ४० करोड़ कोयले के उत्पादन का लक्ष्य रख सकते है ।

हम किसी भी दृष्टिकोण से देखें, मुल्क में जो औद्योगीकरण की भावना पैदा हो रही है उसको देखते हुए सन् १९८१ तक हम को कोयले का उत्पादन ४० करोड़ टन तक करना होगा और अगर ऐसा नहीं किया गया तो जिस तरह से अभी संकट आ रहा है औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में, उसी तरह बार बार संकट आते रहेंगे और हमारी सरकार का एक मन्त्रालय दूसरे मन्त्रालय पर दोषारोपण करता रहेगा । एक मन्त्रालय कहेगा कि कोयला नहीं ढोया गया और दूसरा कहेगा कि कोयले का उत्पादन काफी नहीं हो रहा है । इसलिये यह अभी से निश्चित किया जाना चाहिये कि तृतीय पंचवर्षीय आयोजना के अन्त तक हमें कोयले का उत्पादन बढ़ा कर १२ करोड़ टन कर देना है ।

लेकिन जब कोयले के उत्पादन का प्रश्न आता है तो जो संकट इसकी कमी के कारण आए हैं उनकी तरफ भी ध्यान देना चाहिये । मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि अभी जो कोयले का संकट आया उसके कारण न केवल उद्योगों को हानि उठानी पड़ी बल्कि घरों में जलाने के लिए भी कोयला नहीं मिला । इस मन्त्रालय और रेलवे मन्त्रालय की नीति अच्छी तरह से खुली नहीं । यह पता नहीं चल सका कि किसकी गलती के कारण यह संकट आया । यह कहने से कि जुलाई में हालत अच्छी हो जाएगी और मुगलसराय से ऊपर का जो हिस्सा है उसको २०० वैगन अधिक कोयला मिलेगा, यह समस्या हल होने वाली नहीं है । उत्पादन बढ़ाने के साथ ही साथ हम को इसके लिये कार्यक्रम निश्चित कर लेना चाहिये कि हम उस कोयले को किस प्रकार देश के विभिन्न भागों में भेज सकेंगे । अभी जो सरकार की तरफ से कमेटी बनायी गयी है और जो उसके सम्बन्ध में अखबारों में छपा है उससे मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि समस्या का हल होने वाले नहीं है । इसलिये इस समस्या के हल के लिये मूलभूत रूप से नया तरीका अपनाना चाहिये जिससे जो लक्ष्य उत्पादन का हमने रखा है उसको उपभोक्ता केन्द्रों तक आसानी से पहुंचाया जा सके ।

मैं समझता हूं कि केवल रेलवे पर ही इस अतिरिक्त उत्पादन के वितरण की सारी जिम्मेदारी नहीं डाली जा सकती । अकेली रेलवे मेरे विचार से जो हमारा लक्ष्य है उतने कोयले को नहीं ढो सकेगी । और जो २० साल बाद ४० करोड़ टन कोयले के उत्पादन का हमारा लक्ष्य होगा उसको

ढोने की क्षमता तो रेलवे से सम्भव ही नहीं है। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूं कि अभी से सरकार इस नीति पर चले कि न केवल रेलों द्वारा कोयला ढोने की योजना बनाये बल्कि नादयों द्वारा, समुद्र द्वारा और सड़कों द्वारा, यानी जो भी साधन देश के अन्दर उपलब्ध हो सकते हैं, सब साधनों का उपयोग कोयला ढोने के लिये करे। इन सब साधनों की ओर सरकार का ध्यान जाना चाहिये। इन सब तरीकों पर अच्छी तरह से विचार होना चाहिये और यह लक्ष्य निर्धारित करना चाहिये कि कितना कोयला रेलों द्वारा ढोया जायेगा, कितना सड़कों द्वारा, कितना नदियों द्वारा और कितना समुद्र द्वारा। इन सब साधनों के लिये अलग-अलग लक्ष्य निर्धारित कर देने चाहियें। जब तक हम इस प्रकार के लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं करेंगे तब तक ऐसी बातें पैदा होती रहेंगी कि कोयला ढोने के लिये रेलवे आवश्यक क्षमता पैदा नहीं कर सकी। और मुझे लगता है कि रेलवे कभी इतनी क्षमता पैदा नहीं कर सकेगी कि अकेले कोयला सब स्थानों पर पहुंचा सके। इसलिये मेरा सुझाव है कि जब तीसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना शुरू होने वाली है तो हमको इसी समय लक्ष्य निर्धारित कर देना चाहिये कि किस तरीके से हमें इस योजना के काल में कोयला ढोना होगा। कोयला उत्पादन के लक्ष्यों को निर्धारित करने के साथ-साथ हमें यह भी निश्चित कर देना चाहिये कि हम उसको किस प्रकार देश के विभिन्न भागों में पहुंचा सकेंगे ताकि बाद में इस सम्बन्ध में कोई संकट पैदा न हो।

मुझे अफसोस है कि सरकार ने अपने पालिसी रिजोल्यूशन में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं किया है और उससे प्रकट होता है कि वह प्राइवेट व्यक्तियों को खदानों में काम करने में मदद दे सकती है और उनको उत्पादन करने में मदद दे सकती है। जो भी हो, लेकिन इतना हमें निश्चित करना पड़ेगा:—

—यदि इनको हम अपने हाथ में नहीं ले सकते—कि कम से कम उनके मुनाफे को निश्चित कर दिया जाये। हम देखते हैं कि जब कभी मजदूरों की मजदूरी बढ़ाने का सवाल आता है या और कोई बात आती है जिसके लिये कुछ पैसे की आवश्यकता हो तो कोयले की कीमत को बढ़ा कर उसके लिये पैसे का प्रबन्ध किया जाता है, कोई दूसरा तरीका उसके लिये इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जाता। मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार उधर भी ध्यान दे और देखे कि वाकई कोयले के जो प्राइवेट मालिक हैं उनको और ज्यादा मुनाफा न मिले।

12 hrs.

कोयले के बाद मैं अपने मित्र श्री केशव देव मालवीय को यह जानते हुये कि जितना कुछ लक्ष्य पूरा होना चाहिये तेल के सम्बन्ध में और दूसरे मिनरल्स के सम्बन्ध में वह पूरा नहीं हुआ है, बधाई देना चाहता हूं और बधाई देने के माने यह नहीं हैं कि वह जिस नीति पर अभी चल रहे हैं वह नीति पूरे तरीके से सही है लेकिन मैं मानता हूं कि उसकी दिशा डाइरेक्शन सही है। वह इस बात की कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि तेल में प्राइवेट लोगों का जो निहित स्वार्थ है वह किसी तरीके से खत्म हो। मैं जानता हूं कि इसमें बहुत सी दिक्कतें आती हैं और दिक्कतें इसलिये पैदा होती हैं कि हमारे देश की नीति और सरकार की जो नीति है वह मिश्रित अर्थ व्यवस्था की है। जब उसका प्रश्न उठता है तो उसमें उनका एक विभाग पूरे तरीके से सीधे सोशलिज्म की नीति को अख्तियार नहीं कर सकता। उसे भी एक तरीके से मिश्रित होना पड़ता है। लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि यदि तेल के मन्त्री कुछ हिम्मत के साथ काम करते और इण्डस्ट्रियल पालिसी रेजोलूशन का हवाला अपने साथ रखते तो कम से कम हमारे देश में प्राइवेट जो तेल के हित हैं और जो खासतौर से विदेशी हाथों में हैं, अगर उनको अपने हाथ में नहीं ले सकते थे तो कम से कम एक काम तो जरूर ही कर सकते थे कि उनका मुनाफा कम कर सकते थे।

[श्री ब्रजराज सिंह]

लेकिन मुझे बड़े अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि इस क्षेत्र में वह बुरी तरह असफल हुये हैं। पता नहीं कि सरकार की कोई इच्छा भी है कि नहीं कि हमारे देश में जो प्राइवेट विदेशी उद्योगपतियों का तेल उद्योग में हित है और जो बुरी तरह मुनाफा उठा रहे हैं, उसको किसी तरीके से कम किया जाये ?

मेरे पास संसद् की लाइब्रेरी से दिये हुये कुछ आंकड़े हैं। उसके अनुसार सन् १९५७ में विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों ने टेक्स को निकाल कर कुल नेट प्राफिट्स जो किया वह १४ करोड़ ९९ लाख रुपये का था अर्थात् करीब १५ करोड़ रुपये का नेट प्राफिट किया। यह प्राफिट मैं कुल कम्पनियों का बतला रहा हूं। इसी तरीके से सन् १९५८ में करीब १३ करोड़ रुपये का प्राफिट किया और १९५९ में भी इसी तरह से है। परसेंटज जाकर ११, १२ के बीच में पड़ता है, करीब १२ परसेंट पड़ता है। अब विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों का जहां तक प्रश्न है उन्होंने अपने एम्पलाईज को और खासतौर से अपने विदेशी कर्मचारियों का वेतन स्तर बहुत ज्यादा रक्खा है और अन्य बहुत सी सुविधाएं दे रक्खी हैं। ज्यादातर मुनाफा या तो डैप्रीसिएशन में जाता है या विदेशी कर्मचारियों में जाता है और खासतौर से बड़े-बड़े विदेशी कर्मचारियों के वेतनों में जाता है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि अगर सरकार किसी कारणवश देश में विदेशी पूंजी इनवैस्ट होने का अवसर देना चाहती है और इसलिये वह विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों को पूरे तरीके से अपने हाथ में नहीं ले सकती है या आवश्यक पूंजी का उसके पास प्रबन्ध नहीं है, अथवा उसको अन्य क्षेत्रों को देखना है जिनमें कि पूंजी लगेगी, अगर यह कारण हों तो सरकार को कम से कम एक काम तो जरूर करना ही चाहिये जिसके लिये कि समय आ गया है कि उन विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों के मुनाफों को कुछ सीमित करना चाहिये। कोई इस तरह का एक तरीका निकालना चाहिये जिससे यह जो बेहद मुनाफा कमा रहे हैं उनको कुछ कम किया जा सके।

इसी संघर्ष में अभी उस दिन की बात मुझे याद आ जाती है जब श्री मालवीय ने यहां पर कहा था कि वह विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों पर इसके लिये दबाव नहीं डाल सकते कि वह अपने यहां हिन्दुस्तानी कर्मचारी ही रक्खें। उन्होंने जोश में आकर यह भी कह दिया कि वे पूरी की पूरी हिन्दुस्तानियों की फौज को कैसे रख सकते हैं क्योंकि उनकी कीमत कम करते हैं और जिससे कि शायद मुनाफा उनको कम हो रहा है और इसलिये उनको वे नहीं रख सकते। मैं बतलाना चाहता हूं कि यह बिल्कुल गलत है कि कोई हिन्दुस्तानी कर्मचारियों की फौज है। हिन्दुस्तानी कर्मचारियों की यूनियन द्वारा दिये गये आंकड़ों से यह पता चलता है कि जितना काम है उसको देखते हुए वहां पर कम कर्मचारी हैं। वहां पर कर्मचारियों की संख्या में बड़ोहोत्री करने की गुंजाइश है लेकिन कर्मचारी बढ़ाने का तो वहां पर जिक्र ही नहीं है सिर्फ उनसे बदला लेने के लिए उन कर्मचारियों को निकालने की कोशिश की जा रही है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार को इस बारे में जरा कड़ाई के साथ बर्ताव करना चाहिये। सरकार को सोचना चाहिये कि आखिर यह हमारा मुल्क है और इसमें विदेशी लोग आकर मुनाफा कमा रहे हैं अब चूंकि विदेशी पूंजी यहां पर इनवैस्ट कराने की अपनी नीति है इसलिये उनको बन्द तो नहीं किया जा सकता लेकिन जहां तक कर्मचारियों का प्रश्न आता है तो हिन्दुस्तानी कर्मचारियों की नौकरी की पूरी सुरक्षा होनी चाहिये, गारण्टी होनी चाहिये और यह भी देखा जाना चाहिये कि क्या जितने लोगों का काम है उतने ही लोग काम कर रहे हैं या उससे कम लोग रक्खे जा रहे हैं ? इस नाम पर कि विदेशी लोगों को और ज्यादा वेतन देना है हमारे अधिकारियों को हटाया जा रहा है। अब इन

लोगों को सिर्फ इसलिये हटाया जा रहा है कि वह अपनी यूनियन बनाते हैं, अपना संगठन बनाते हैं और उस संगठन के जरिये वह अपने देश के हितों की और अपने हितों की रक्षा करने की कोशिश करते हैं । मैं चाहूंगा कि मन्त्री महोदय उधर ध्यान दें । और विदेशी तेल कम्पनियों के किसी भी ऐसे हमले जिसकी कि वजह से हिन्दुस्तानी कर्मचारियों पर हमला होता है, उन पर आघात होता हो, ध्यान रक्खें और ऐसे हमले को बर्दाश्त न करें । हमारी सरकार को उनसे कह देना चाहिये कि अगर हिन्दुस्तानी कर्मचारियों को अलग निकालने का प्रयत्न किया जाता है या कोई और ऐसी कोशिश की जाती है जिससे कि हिन्दुस्तानी कर्मचारियों की नौकरियों पर आघात पहुंचता है तो यह सरकार चुप नहीं रहेगी ।

जहां तक तेल के नये-नये क्षेत्रों की खोज करने का सवाल है उसका स्वागत करता हूं । सरकार की यह नीति कि देश में नये-नये तेल के क्षेत्रों की खोज की जाय, प्रशंसनीय और स्वागत योग्य है । हमारे वहां नये-नये तेल क्षेत्रों की खोज की जा रही है । लेकिन इसी के साथ हमें जल्दी से जल्दी यह प्रयत्न करना चाहिये कि हम जो रिफाएनरीज तेलशोधक कारखाने कायम करने वाले हैं, वह जितनी भी जल्दी बन सकें बना लिये जायें ।

हमें मालूम है कि पिछले दिनों हम रूस के तेल को सिर्फ इसलिये नहीं ला सके हालांकि मन्त्री जी ने बतलाया था कि वह दूसरे तेल की अपेक्षा ११ प्रतिशत कम भाव पर मिलता था, क्योंकि हमारे पास रिफाएनरीज नहीं हैं जिनमें कि शोधन कार्य कर सकें । विदेशी कम्पनियों ने उसको रिफाइन करने से, शोधन करने से इंकार कर दिया । इसलिये समय आ गया है जब हम अधिक से अधिक अपने साधनों का इस्तेमाल करके अपने क्षेत्र में रिफाएनरीज कायम करें और इस तरीके से विदेशों का जो एक तरीके से उनके निहित स्वार्थों की रक्षा के लिए दबाव हो सकता है, उससे हम अपनी रक्षा कर सकें ।

अन्त में मैं कुछ शब्द स्टील के बारे में कह कर अपनी बात खत्म कर दूंगा । जहां इस बात का स्वागत किया जाना चाहिये कि सरकार अपनी बहुत सी मुश्किलों के बावजूद पब्लिक सैक्टर में स्टील के उत्पादन को बढ़ावा दे रही है और इस के लिये यह सदन् और देश के वह नागरिक जिन्हें विश्वास है कि देश का भविष्य समाजवाद के रास्ते पर ही चल कर उज्ज्वल हो सकता है, यह चाहेंगे कि अधिक से अधिक सरकार अपने इसी रास्ते पर चले । लेकिन इसी के साथ जो लोग प्राइवेट सैक्टर के समर्थक हैं वह चाहते हैं कि ऐसा न हो क्योंकि उन लोगों को अपनी सफलता में शक होता है और आशंका होती है । इसलिये प्राइवेट सैक्टर के समर्थक लोग चाहते है कि देश में प्राइवेट सैक्टर अधिकाधिक बढ़े । सरकार को देखना चाहिये कि पब्लिक सैक्टर में उत्पादन पर जो खर्च आता है उसको क्या कुछ कम नहीं किया जा सकता है । उत्पादन के जो लक्ष्य हम ने कायम किये हुए हैं क्या उन को हम समय के अन्दर पूरा कर रहे हैं ? रिपोर्टों और उन में जो आंकड़े दिये गये है उन को देखने से मालूम पड़ता है कि उत्पादन के लक्ष्यों को हम समय के अन्दर पूरा नहीं कर रहे है और उत्पादन का खर्च हमारा बढ़ता चला जा रहा है । देखने में यह आता है कि सुपरविजन और निरीक्षण पर जो खर्च आता है वह असली काम करने वाले आदमियों की तनख्वाहों पर जो रुपया खर्च होता है उस से कहीं ज्यादा पड़ता है । अफसरों की भरमार हो जाती है । मौके पर जो काम करने वाले मजदूर लोग होते है उन पर तो कम खर्च आता है लेकिन अफसरों पर ज्यादा खर्च होता है । पब्लिक सैक्टर को यदि हमें अपने देश में सफल बनाना है और जैसा कि हम चाहते है तो हम इस तरह की नीति निर्धारित करें कि निरीक्षण पर कम खर्च हो और खर्चा असली काम करने वालों पर हो और ऐसा होने से उत्पादन का खर्च कम हो सकेगा ।

[श्री बजराज सिंह]

बुखारो में चौथा स्टील प्लांट लगाये जाने का जो सरकार का लक्ष्य है उस का मैं स्वागत करता हूं । लेकिन मैं सरकार से कहना चाहता हूं कि अभी से इस तरह की नीति निर्धारित करें ताकि एस्टिमेट्स से जो खर्चा काफी बढ़ जाता है एक्सीड कर जाता है, वह न बढ़े ।

यह निश्चित बात है कि कुछ सालों के अन्दर पब्लिक सैक्टर में जो स्टील पैदा की जा रही है उसमें १००० क ोड़ से ऊपर पया लग जायेगा । इस समय के एस्टिमेट देखें तो ६४६ करोड़ रुपया पब्लिक सैक्टर में स्टील पर लगने जा रहा है । ४० करोड़ रुपये का इस साल का बजट है और ६०६ क ोड़ पया लग चुका है । बुखारो में स्टील प्लांट लगने से यह खर्चा और बढ़ेगा और २०० करोड़ रुपये के ऊपर जाकर १ मिलियन टन का इस साल का लक्ष्य बन जाता है । इस तरह से १०० क ोड़ रुपये खर्च करने से १ मिलियन टन का उत्पादन हो जायेगा ।

इसी तरीके से हमारे पब्लिक सैक्टर में तीन प्लांट्स हैं और उन का विस्तार किया जा रहा है तो हमें वहां के लिये यह लक्ष्य बनाना चाहिये कि १०० क ोड़ पये से ज्यादा एक मिलियन टन के विस्तार करने में खर्च नहीं होगा । १००० करोड़ या १२०० करोड़ रुपया अगले पांच साल में लग चुकेगा । मैं श्री मुरारका के इस सुझाव का विरोध करता हूं कि पब्लिक सैक्टर में जो हमारे प्लांट्स हैं उनके लिये अलग-अलग कारपोरेशन्स बनाये जायें और उनके द्वारा उनका प्रबन्ध हो । जब इस सम्बन्ध में हम इतना रुपया खर्च करने जा रहे हैं, तो भले ही सरकार का एक अलग मंत्री हो, जिसका चौबीस घंटे का काम यह हो कि वह पब्लिक सैक्टर के स्टील उद्योग की देखभाल करे, लेकिन यह बिल्कुल उचित न होगा कि अलग-अलग कार्पोरेशन बना कर खर्च को बढ़ाया जाय और ऐसी स्थिति पैदा कर दी जा े कि उनके काम में समन्वय न हो सके । तृतीय पंचवर्षीय ोजना में, चतुर्थ पंच-वर्षीय ोजना में और उसके बाद जितने भी स्टील प्लांट हमने देश में बनाने हैं, उनको ृष्टि में रख कर और इस सम्बन्ध में सारी सम्भावनाओं को देख कर यह उचित होगा कि सरकार चाहे बिल्कुल अलग से एक मंत्री नियुक्त कर दे, जो चौबीस घं े स्टील के काम को देखे, लेकिन वह सब काम एक ही कार्पोरेशन के अन्तर्गत होना चाहिये, जिस से खर्च कम हो और काम, नीति और उसके अमल में समन्वय हो सके ।

अन्त में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि विदेशों से जो स्टील इम्पोर्ट किया जाता है, उपभोक्ताओं में उस का वितरण करने में बहुत गड़बड़ी होती है । मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री महोदय इधर भी ध्यान दें । हमने और जमींदारियां तो खत्म कर दी हैं, लेकिन जिन्हें एस्टाब्लिश्ड इम्पोर्ट्ज़ कहा जाता है, उन की जमींदा ी और एकाधिकार अभी तक बना हुआ है । आज स्थिति यह है कि केवल वही लोग बाहर से स्टील मंगा सकते हैं । मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करूंगा कि यदि इस बारे में कुछ और नहीं हो सकता है, तो कम से कम यह काम स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कार्पोरेशन को दे दिया जा े और सरकारी क्षेत्र के द्वारा स्टील मंगाया जा े, जिस से यह मुनाफ़ा उनके हाथ में न जाय और देश में जो वितरण हो रहा है, उसमें गड़बड़ी न हो और उपभोक्ताओं को अधिक से अधिक स्टील मिल सके ।

Shri D. C. Mallik (Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel and specially the Ministers Sardar Swaran Singh and Malviyaji for the highly efficient way they have managed their respective charges and for the high efficiency they have brought to bear

upon their departments. I have also to thank the Ministry for the success they have achieved in the past and for what they are achieving still now and I hope they will achieve still more in future.

I have specially to congratulate Malaviyaji for the good luck he had had in finding oil in almost all the wells he has sunk. Oil is not always found in every well. Oil has a bit of luck about it. So he must be congratulated for his good luck. In about 5 per cent of the oil wells we get oil; in the rest we do not get it.

About West Bengal he is not so fortunate yet; but we must not blame him. What could he do? The foreign collaborators, the Standard Oil Co., have everything to lose and nothing to gain by the find of oil in West Bengal. There was something fishy about their workings there. I am glad that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is taking up the work of exploration in West Bengal. But there is difficulty about that. It would mean equipment technique and finance. And, I hope this difficulty would be overcome soon and he will find crude oil in West Bengal in plenty.

Now, I turn to oil and oil refineries. We are finding crude oil in plenty and I hope it would be still plentier in future. So, the question of refinery has become as important now as the oil itself. At present we have foreign owned refineries were working, all in the private sector; the Burmah Shell refineries working in Bombay with a capacity of 2·5 million tons. But recently, they have expanded it to 2.9 million tons. The Stanvac in Bombay had capacity of 1·5 millions; but they have expanded it recently to 1·9 million tons. The Caltex at Vizag had their refinery with a capacity of 0·75 million tons; and they have expanded it to 1 million tons recently. The Assam Oil Co. had a refinery with a capacity of 0·35 milion tons; but, they have recently expanded it to 0·5 million tons. They had all told capacity of 4·4 million tons and recently they have expanded it to 6·3 million tons.

Now, in the public sector, we have a proposal for the following refineries. Gauhati with 0·75 million tons capacity which can easily be expanded to 1·25 million tons. And Gauhati will be commissioned very soon. Barauni has a provision for 2·25 million tons which can easily be expanded to 3 mililon tons. Barauni wil be in working position in about a year. In Gujarat there is a proposal to set up a refinery and the work is in progress. It will have a capacity of 2 million tons which can easily be expanded to 2·5 million tons. So, our capacity will be 5 million tons which could be expended to 6·75 million tons.

Besides, we are importing Russian oil to the extent of 1·5 million tons—it is on the fair way be distributed by the India Oil Co., a Government of India undertaking. The private sector refineries belonging to the western oil companies have been demanding a further expansion by 1·3 million tons. Their ground is that by the end of the Third Five Year Plan, the requirement of India will be 14 million tons, though our Ministry feel that it will be only 12·8 million tons for which in the 3rd Plan we will have the capacity. Our Ministry is quite agreeable to the expansion by the private sector provided they refine the Russian oil and our crude oil. But, they are not willing to do so. They flatly deny to refine Russian oil; and they have also refused to refine our crude oil. So, Malaviyaji, our Minister has rightly decided that they should not be allowed that expansion because to allow that expansion would mean an additional import of 1·3 million tons of foreign oil which would consume a huge amount of our foreign exchange in which we are in bad need.

These foreign oil companies are now making great capital out of this refusal. They say that when India is in need of refineries, why should this expansion be denied to them?

[Shri D. C. Mallik]

But our Malaviyaji is right here. He says that we are agreeable to the expansion provided they refine our crude oil ond they refine also the Russian oil. We are having Russian crude oil at a very much cheaper rate and we can pay them in rupees. If we allow these foreign companies to import 1·3 million tons of foreign oil, it will drain out a huge amount of our foreign exchange Also, when our crude is ready we will have our own refineries, to refine them So, Malaviyaji is right here.

These foreign companies are making great capital out of it and they are decrying Malaviyaji by saying that with India's need for refineries he is refusing the expansion of the present refineries. But, they are wanting expansion on their own terms, not on the terms of our Government. So, this refusal has been quite proper and for this refusal we should congratulate our Ministry.

They have another object in view. If there is surplus capacity in their own refineries, then, they would be allowed to import 1.3 million tons of crude oill. But this will be in excess of our requirement which we do not require and then we shall have to stop the import of Russian oil. And that is at the back of their game the stoppage of import of Russian oil.

If we look back to the history of the foreign oil companies, we will see that their history is black indeed. During the British regime, they have been allowed to exploit us because England had extracted some concesions from them. Some of these oil companies are American and some of them are British. They are big companies with huge capital and huge reserves and they are making huge profits so much that if the excess profits they made could be retained in India all our children could be given free primary education. They have done great harm to us.

To avoid competition these companies had entered into an unholy alliance amongst themselves to exploit India. Outside India there was cutthroat competition amongst themselves and they sold even at some loss. But, in India, they had entered into an unholy alliance amongst themselves; and they have divided their spheres of activity. At that time when we were under British rule, with the help of the British Administration they extracted any price they demanded. It was much higher than the outside prices. When the cost price was first determined, they charged transport cost from U.S.A. Though they actually got oil from the Persian Gulf and it was subsequently found that though they transported oil from the Persian Gulf areas at a much lesser cost. They cheated us. After Independence and during the infancy of our Independence, these western foreign companies took full advantage of our helplessness condition at that time. We had no foreign exchange. We have had no friends then. There was nobody to offer us oil; the foreign countries or companies then could extract any price they liked to their hearts' content and they did it.

So, we should not forget the past history of these companies. Instead of allowing them further expansion, we should, at the earliest opportunity, when we are in a position to do it, nationalise these enterprises. I congratulate Shri K. D. Malaviya on the strength he had displayed in the times of difficulty and for thus acting in the best national interests. Some people are doing propaganda both inside this House and outside and have been decrying Shri Malaviya for refusing the expansion of those refineries. But we should not forget that they were demanding the expansion at their own terms. So, we were quite willing to allow them this expansion provided they were willing to refine our crude oil and the Russian crude oil. We can have Russian crude oil at a much lower rate than that supplied by these western oil Companies. So, instead of decrying Shri Malaviya we should applaud his

courage and we should give him credit for doing a great service to India.

The day may be coming soon when we shall have plenty of crude oil and we would require more refineries so that we may be in a position to export oil to other countries all over the world. When other countries of the world are exhausting their sources of supply, we are now beginning to have our sources developed. So, I would request the hon. Minister to have the refinery at Cambay. Cambay is the ideal place for the export of petrol from our country. Cambay is on the sea-shore with an old harbour. So, we would not require any pipeline to transport our petrol to Cambay. Cambay would be the ideal place for the refinery. Oil is not my subject and I have finished with it.

Now, I shall turn to coal and steel. About steel, there are many people who have been decrying the Ministry for increase in the estimates. But in these days of ever-increasing prices, it is very difficult to stick to the original estimates. Over and above the original estimates, there are naturally additions and alterations which require extra expenditure. In a huge concern like this, it does not matter whether a few hundreds of rupees or even a few crores of rupees are spent on them for expansion. We have only to see whether the expenditure has been proper or improper. If it is proper, one should not say anything about it. If it is improper, then we have to say something about it. Our Ministry should be more careful about the expenditure, and it will be all right to have auditing and checking. The Ministry should have them.

I had recently been to the steel works. The high towers, the high blast furnaces, the coke ovens and other huge structures which stand there completed, should fill any Indian heart with pride and glory. Instead of finding fault with them, we should see what has been achieved in such a short time in a country like ours—a poor country, and realise that it is our pride and glory to have such big projects. If we go to Bhakra-Nangal or if we go to other big projects, see the steel projects, we should rejoice that our Government have been able to do such huge things in such a short time with practically no money in their pockets.

About the steel plants, I would say that India is very fortunate in having all the requisite raw materials for a steel plant close at hand in Madhya Pradesh and parts of Bihar. For a steel plant, the raw materials as you know, are bauxite, limestone, metallurgical coal and manganese and ore. We have all these things in close proximity. The demand for steel is still there and the demand will increase every day. It would be an increasing demand. So we need not very anxious for our market overseas, so far as steel is concerned. In the present Plan period we will have sufficient demand so far as steel is concerned. But then in the Third Plan period, we will have only one more steel plant. I propose that we should have more and more steel plants in the fourth subsequent Plans. At that time, the cost will be less, because the Hathia plan would manufacture most of the machinery that is required for the steel plants, and our foreign exchange requirements will be much less and our markets will be ensured. Every country does not produce steel; every country has not got the raw materials for steel. So, our markets will be safe and foreign exchange will be earned. Therefore, I propose that there should be more steel plants in the subsequent Plans. Nobody will be able to compete with us in price, because our price will be the lowest then. We have the raw materials. We have been blessed in respect of the raw materials, and we are rich in them. No country in the world is so rich in iron ore as we are in India. We have in India limestone also. Only we are deficient to some extent in the matter of metallurgical coal. But by washing the coal and by having new sources of metallurgical coal we can have enough

[Shri D. C. Mallik]

of them. We are also discovering new fields of metallurgical coal. We should not therefore lag behind in that respect also. So, I propose that there should be more plants in the fourth Plan and preferably they should be near the raw materials.

I had been to Chittaranjan. I am told that for every engine they have to import the boiler plates to the value of Rs. 40,000. Our Ministry must make it a point to manufacture those boiler plates there. They can be made here. So far as the present day production goes, it is about 160 and I think about Rs. 70 lakhs a year of foreign exchange is required for importing these boiler plates. So, we should manufacture them in India and save the foreign exchange.

In the fourth Plan period, we would not require so much of foreign exchange for our steel plants as we require now. Nowadays, our requirement for indignous material is about Rs. 100 crores for a steel plant of the capacity of 15 million tons and about Rs. 100 crores is required in foreign exchange. I hope that with the completion of the Hathia project, our requirements in foreign exchange will be almost half. So, we can have a steel plant at a much lesser cost and with a much less foreign exchange expenditure. So, my proposal is that we should have more and more steel plants. That would fetch more and more money to our country and offer employment to a large number of our people.

Mr. Speaker The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri D. C. Mallik: I shall finish in two minutes, Sir. I have to say only one thing about metallurgical coal. There is good need for metallurgical coal now. There are certain collieries on both sides of the Damodar river: Dhekbera, Sitanala, Kohinoor, Gurgaon, for example. There is good metallurgical coal available there. But the working of the mines there is very difficult, because the inclination of the seams is very great. The private parties are not able to work them properly. So, I propose that they should be nationalised. Again, there are certain collieries such as Sutikdih, Swardih, Sudamdih and others which yield very good metallurgical coal, but which are under water. Of course, because of the fact that they are under water, they could not be worked, and they are not of much use to the country now. They require a good deal of capital to make them workable. So, I propose that they should be nationalised. A day will come when India will be in great need of metallurgical coal and it will be almost difficult and costly to get it from outside India. So, we should have those collieries under our own control and nationalise them. They should be nationalised so that they may be kept ready, when the need for metrallurgical coal is felt, when the present stock of metallurgical coal from other collieries gets low we may be ready to meet the situation by working these collieries.

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to take much time of the House in dealing with the various questions raised in this House. But briefly I would like, with your permission, to touch and give my views and state the policy of the Government and certain explanations also with regard to certain basic points that have been raised by some hon. Members opposite and also my colleagues from my party. Let me take some of the question on the mineral side. One of the criticisms, if I may say so has been with regard to the slow progress in our exploration activities of natural resources and also consequently our mining activities.

I should say that the activities of the Geological Survey of India and the Indian Bureau of Mines have in the last two or three years very much increased and the report that has been

put up by my Ministry before the House gives a fairly good description of the activities that they have expanded in recent years. But let me state quite categorically that we are facing lot of difficulties with regard to technical personnel and equipment that we desire to obtain for speeding up the programme of prospecting, exploration and mining.

The Indian Bureau of Mines, which is mainly concerned with the detailed proving of our mineral resources has been facing difficulties in getting the proper type of equipment and technical personnel. We have been feeling the shortage of technical people and so we took in hand several training schemes to overcome the difficulty in regard to personnel. In spite of these steps that we took to step up the number of our technicians, we still find that there is short-fall in the number of technicians. We sanctioned the posts, but we cannot fill up these posts.

For instance on the 28th February, 1961, the total number of Class I sanctioned posts were 234, out of which we could not fill up more than 114, because experienced mining engineers that are necessarily required for discharging those duties are not just there. Similarly, in Class II, sanctioned posts were 58, but the number filled up was only 15. In Class III posts of technicinans, the number sanctioned was 1095, but we were able to fill up only 611. Of course, in regard to non-technical and Class IV posts, there is not much difficulty, but there too, we are not able to find as much as we want.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): Is it due to the low emoluments?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: That is also one of the causes—the Government is paying less emoluments. There are a number of issues involved in it. The private sector pays higher salary, but they may not give all those concessions which one gets in Government service. Nevertheless, from a short-range view, a young man feels that if he gets Rs. 1,000 in the private sector as aginst Rs. 600 in Government service, he prefers to go to the private sector. He forgets that there are certain advantages in joining Government service. It is a transitional phase in our schemes of things and it can only be got over by experience and the Government side by persuading the people to see that there are greater advantages for them to join Government service than elsewhere. We have made some improvements lately. We have increased the salary and tried to persuade them to join us. They are now coming in larger numbers. However, the rate of increase in the implementation of our programme is improving and in the Third Plan, we hope shall catch up much more satisfactorily. That is a general observation which I have to make with regard to mineral exploration and mining activities.

My friend, Shri Jaganatha Rao, referred to the CPMO the Central Provinces Manganese Ores Limited. It is a privately-owned mining company wholly owned by a British concern and registered in London. In all, they held about 19 leases for manganese—11 in the State of Maharashtra and 8 in Madhya Pradesh.

12·38 hrs.

[SHRI JAGANATHA RAO *in the Chair*]

These leases were granted . . .

Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat): For what period?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am coming to that. These leases were granted from 1901 onwards originally and later renewed from 1931 onwards for a period of 30 years. More or less, they have been holding these mines for about 60 years. 8 leases expire in 1961 March, 4 in 1962, 4 in 1963 and one each in 1968, 1969 and 1970. The company made several applications for a further period of 30 years to the respective State Governments.

[Shri K. D. Malaviya]

The State Governments seem to have passed rejection orders on those applications and the company came for a review to the Central Government.

After a careful consideration of the points raised in the application and taking into consideration the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 8 of the Mines and Minerals Act, 1957, the Central Government rejected the review application, i.e. those leaves which were due right for termination will be terminated. But the CPMO are anxious and they think their cases are not being justly considered. What should happen in future to these mines is a question which is very actively under the consideration of Government. Therefore, we have got the mining leases renewed for another two months, which gives time to both parties to find out what best could be done. So far as the Government are concerned, they are wholly unable to grant any further leases, because it goes contrary to the Industrial Policy Resolution and also the Act definitely lays down that unless there is a very exceptional reason, the leases generally are not to be renewed. If they are to be renewed proper reasons have to be recorded. We do not yet see any reason, but we are anxious to find out some way by which the experience and the association of these people could be made available not only for developing the mines but also its disposition The Government, therefore, are considering this question. That is why we have renewed the lease for a couple of months.

The National Mineral Development Corporation is one of the most recent creations of our Ministry, which will deal with the mining activities, in the public sector of the various minerals that are ready for exploitation. Some of the activities of the National Mineral Development Corporation are: a partnership in the Orissa Mining Corporation with the Orissa State Government on a 50:50 basis, development of the iron mines of Kiriburu where we have entered into an agreement with Japan to export about four million tons of iron ore from 1964—66, development of Bailadilla iron ore mines in Madhya Pradesh, development of Panna diamond mines of Madhya Pradesh and, lastely, development of Khetri copper mines of Rajasthan. As and when more significant mines are ready for exploitation, it is our intention to undertake mining activities in the public sector through the National Mineral Development Corporation or its subsidary.

Coming to oil, I do not wish to take much time of the House. My hon. friend Dr. Krishnaswami accuses me of having developed an idealistic approach to the, as I understand, detriment of a satisfactory expansion of the oil industry which is not expeditiously tackled. Temperamentally, Sir, I admit that I like to be called an idealist.

Dr. Krishnaswami: Not an idealist, I said "ideological bias".

Shri K. D. Malaviya: So to import an element of idealism in disposing of questions of a pragmatic nature does create certain contradiction and confusion in the minds of people who may not be agreeing with our policy.

But I believe that the oil policy of the Government of India has succeeded very well. I further believe that but for the tenacious attitude adopted by the Government of India and this Ministry, oil would not have developed in the public sector in the way that it has done. But for the fact, also, that the Government of India has stubbornly stuck to the policy that was enunciated by it under the Industrial Policy Resolution, we would not have created an efficient cadre in the country which has undertaken search for oil, is undertaking soon production of crude oil, has set up or is setting up two refineries in association with friendly countries and our helpers the Soviet Union and the Rumanian

Government and is also planning to have a third refinery in Gujerat in the public sector. But for this determination and clear decision, we would not have decided to lay a chain of pipelines for the transport of petroleum products in the country with a view to tackling the distribution and marketing problem in a very economic way so that we may not burden my senior colleague Shri Jagjivan Ram with further responsibilities. Lastly, but for this tenacity, there would not have been an Indian Oil Company under the public sector which has undertaken to distribute and market petroleum products. Sir, I would not like to say more. Time alone will show that this policy will bear more fruit. If temporarily some misunderstandings arise between the two parties, the public sector companies and the foreign oil companies that are here decidedly, to render us help, for which I am personally gratefull to them, well those differences are bound to disappear if they appreciate the policy and the good that this policy is bringing to us. I do not think the friendly countries from where these foreign companies come misunderstand our attitude. I am quite sure that the western countries know that it is more a question of hard bargaining, and whenever it is a question of hard bargaining, well, it is natural, that the parties concerned might take up an attitude which creates misunderstandings. We ought not to be baffled by these misunderstandings or worried by these difficulties. What we have to do is to stick to the policy and justly deal with the situation that arises from time to time and with patience.

Now, let us take the case of expansion of the refineries over which some genuine doubts exist in some quarters from our side also. Generally, however, there is an approval from all sides. It is said that the consumption of petroleum products at the end of the Third Plan will be something like between 12 million to 14 million tons. There is also a modest estimate of 10 million tons. But let me take it to be 12 million to 13 million tons. The present capacity of the private sector oil refineries is about, say, 6·3 million tons—I do not want to go into the details—and the estimated capacity of the coming public sector refinery, which is coming up next year will be 2·75 million tons. If the Gujarat refinery comes—it is sure to come, within this Plan period, perhaps a little later than the middle of the Third Plan—that will add two more million tons to Public sector refinery. Then it comes to near about 5 million tons installed capacity under the public sector and about 6·3 million tons under the private sector. The total, I would like to remind my hon. friend Dr. Krishnaswami, will be about 11·5 million tons.

We have a further programme of expansion in the public sector refineries. These expansions are marginal and these marginal expansions of public sector refineries will take up the installed capacity of refineries by the end of the Third Plan period or early Fourth Plan period to something like 12 million to 13 million tons. What Dr. Krishnaswami forgets is that there will always be a necessity of importing marginal quantities of petroleum products even if we have 100 refineries in the country.

Dr. Krishnaswami: I have not forgotten, let the hon. Minister rest assured about it.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I remember to have read some articles written by him. I was referring to those articles.

Dr. Krishnaswami: He has referred to them wrongly.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: What I mean to say is, these marginal imports will, I take it, be about 10 to 15 per cent of the total consumption of the country. If we shall consume about 13 million tons of petroleum products by the end of this Plan period, that will include about 10 to 15 per cent or about 1½ million tons which have to be imported—diesel, kerosene—because one refinery must produce motor spirit and all that and a limited

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quantity of diesel. Therefore, if we have an installed refining capacity of 12 million or 11·5 million tons we will consume 14 million tons and there will be no necessity of having further capacity of refining by the end of the Third Plan period. What happens in the Fourth Plan period is a long way off and we shall consider, all those facts as we approach the middle of the Third Plan period. We are not in a hurry and I do not want my friends to be in a hurry. And nobody should hustle the Government of India to take away that potentiality for expansion in the public sector by just putting forward an argument, either directly or indirectly, that there is plenty of foreign exchange involved in it, or "We can do it cheaper" and, therefore, the Government of India should hand over the expansion programme to the existing private sector refineries. We would like to take their help; but we cannot do it today. There was a time when this question could have been considered, and I have to say that they missed the bus, which is not our fault. Two years back, some of the top American oil experts came here and they agreed with me that these refinery agreements should be revised. In the interest of our own country and our own people, these refinery agreements should be revised; They said, "there is no reason why these people, if they want to take your co-operation and give you their co-operation, should not revise the agreement". They did not agree. How can we then agree to the expansion of the refinery capacity, so long as these agreements last? In the mean time, we have made our arrangements. Therefore, I say they missed the bus at that time, and I am sorry for it. I still want their co-operation under conditions, which are very well-known to them. That is the story of the expansion of refineries.

There is, from our side, a criticism that we are delaying and that there is a certain element of avoidable delay in the process of our negotiations and that the Nahorkatiya oil was exploited much later than what it could have been. This argument has been thrown against our working and functioning for a number of times. Deliberately, I did not say anything about it, because I thought that these doubts occur in the normal way. When there is less of understanding, well, things can be said and it is my duty to submit to these in the hope that criticism would vanish after some time. But I think, I should now correct certain misapprehensions and I should take the House into confidence as to why this argument is fallacious and not very relevant to the entire issue.

The first, oil well discovered in Assam under the activities of the Assam Oil Company in Nahorkatiya was in 1953. Then, in 1954, four wells were drilled. They could not have been sufficient for a refinery and the refinery could not have come in 1954. Since oil was discovered beyond Digboi, since then, the Government of India started negotiating with the Assam Oil Company, because the desire was from both sides to come to some sort of arrangements. In 1954 the second well was completed. Then came the third, fourth and fifth and, later on, in 1956, the Assam Oil Company agreed to form one company and agreed to certain principles. Now what I want the House to remember is that since 1954 not a single process was stopped by the Government of India which goes towards the exploration, development, proving or transportation of crude oil for a refinery—not a single process was stopped. Whenever the Assam Oil Company people came to us and said, "Look here, these negotiations will go on; there should not be any time-lag; therefore, more areas should be given to us for prospecting and more areas should be included in the mining list" and it was all done. All the processes were continuing all the time as if they had the complete right to make arrangements to implement the programme of exploitation. So, my hon. friend, Shri Borooah, is not correct in saying that there was a time lag.

Of course, I want the House to remember that the Assam Oil Company negotiations were the first on the anvil when the Industrial Policy Resolution was tested. That was our first item where we wanted to apply our industrial policy. Naturally, therefore, I can say that it could have delayed it by about a year or, say, 16 months. Even if we asked them to start, then to go ahead with the refinery, exploration and exploitation, perhaps they would have been able to do it a year or 16 months ago; not earlier than that. Up to this time they have drilled 95 wells. Up to this time, in the usual course, there is no firm figure of the quantity of oil that they will produce from that area. It goes on being revised, and repeatedly revised, because the more the number of wells, the greater the knowledge of the oil field. From 1954 to 1961, 95 or 96 wells have been drilled and now they are ready to transport oil and, perhaps, within a few months they will be taken in hand by the refinery for refining. I can very well understand a delay of one year or so, but not more. My contention is that no process was delayed. Nothing was kept back while the negotiations were going on in order to take the exploitation into hand. Any delay—if at all—was in order to have the Noonmati refinery in the public sector, and to have certain other advantages in the interest of the nation. Yes, Mr. Chairman, certain delay occurred and that delay could not have been more than a year or so.

In this connection, I would refer also to the tempo of work in the Gujerat area. I appreciate the anxiety of the House to expedite the work of production of crude oil, and I want to assure the House that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is restlessly trying to increase its tempo of work by eliminating mistakes and also by taking other steps which are necessary. Remember, in this period we have trained a very good army of workers. When we started this work, we had not one oil geologist for the Public Sector in the country and there was no readiness to prepare one by any one who had been staying here for 60 or 70 years to produce or sell oil to us. We started from scratch and oil technology is not an easy subject. It is the most difficult things to be imagined. We were entering into a risky job where there were neither technicians, nor implements, nor the readiness, nor the proper understanding to accede to the request of those who were trying to implement the Government's policy. Under these difficulties, the Oil and Natural Gas Commission started its work.

13 hrs.

Now, take the story of Ankleshwar. The first oil discovery was made in June 1960. Still a year has not elapsed. It is not yet June 1961. It was about 9 or 10 months ago that oil was first discovered in Ankleshwar and it was only about two or 2½ years ago that the search for oil structures in Ankleshwar actually started. The geophysical work was started there about the end of 1958 or 1959—I do not exactly remember the date—and the first well was completed and tested in June 1960. By now we have completed about 7 or 8 wells, that is, in nine months. The average rate of drillnig wells at Ankleshwar is more or less the same which the Assam Oil Company has shown in drilling 96 wells since 1953. I beg to say that it is not poor work with all our mistakes, limitations, accidents and all that. As to the question of proving the quantity of oil, it is a fact that we have to be very cautious. It is with this idea that from the very beginning I have been asking the House to take all our achievements with cautious optimism.

My hon. friend, Shri Jaganatha Rao, pointed out . . .

An Hon. Member: He is in the Chair.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: . . .that perhaps this was not so. I do not agree. We are trying to prove the quatity

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through this trial production programme which is likely to start from the 1st September. This will give us a clearer idea as to how much oil we can produce. There is an amount of sensationalism involved in oil news. I admit that. But for this we are not guilty. It is because of the freedom that the press enjoys here. There are press correspondents—chain of them from their headquarters right up to the well site and a little pressure gas or a little water that sprouts from a well flashed in papers as oil gushing out. The next day, in spite of my best efforts, the news comes out in the press that well number so and so gives oil with great pressure and all that. The moment the news comes out it starts creating a problem for me. Then I have to start contradicting the news. So I have to contradict it. Someone gives the news and I become on the defensive and the whole atmosphere becomes as if I give the news. This is what has been happening for sometime.

I am grateful to the people for properly appreciating this. Now, slowly and slowly they understand the difference between the news given in the press, not in a very responsible way, and in the official communique. I would, therefore, beg of the House to take the information only from the official communique that is issued from time to time.

I have said, about Cambay, that the behaviour of the Cambay oil field has to be observed with cautious optimism. I am not very happy about the quantity of oil that we may get. We will get a commercial quantity of oil but, as I said, the gas and oil ratio has not yet been ascertained. Perhaps there will be much more gas than oil in the oil field. But that is again my guess. Therefore we have to proceed with caution in estimating the quantity of oil from an oil field. I admit that the quantity of crude oil that is likely to be consumed by the end of the Third Five Year Plan may not be produced by that time. But we cannot help it. Our rate of discovery of oil fields should be faster than what it has been so far. We are doing our best. We are now searching at five or six places frantically for oil in Gujarat, and to increase the rate of discovery of oil fields in the country we have increased our activities in the Cauveri Basin and many parts of the Gangetic Basin in Bihar and in Assam. We propose to start searching for oil in Jaisalmer also during this Plan period. The entire country is now being combed.

Shri Basappa (Tiptur): How many wells have we dug in Cambay and in order to find out the potential how many more wells have to be dug there?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: You will thus see that the entire country is being combed from area to area.

This 400,000 square miles of potential oil zone also is a fallacy which has to be clearly understood. There are 400,000 square miles of area in this country where geologically it is possible that oil could have accumulated. But perhaps in 80 per cent of the area oil will not be found. We have to eliminate it. We are selecting typical places which might be about a dozen in number where we shall establish the possibility of oil, or no oil. If we succeed we can say that risk involved has been reduced in developing an oil field, say, in Uttar Pradesh or in the north-east area of Bengal or in Assam. We will then be in a better position to invite foreign companies to come if we like.

What happened in Jaisalmer? About Jaisalmer we have plenty of information which has been supplied to our friends who want to come and help us there. We have done some spadework there. We know the difficulties involved in our working there. Perhaps we cannot do it alone, or we may be able to do it but if may take time. Therefore we want association of foreign companies to come and help us in discovering oil in Jaisalmer. But because we know what the conditions

there are, and because we have done some valuable work. We may not consider basis of "high risk" for this area.

With a view to clarifying further possibilities for search we have been trying to do work in typical places and collect data for our own understanding. Wherever we can do, we select the areas for survey and prospecting. Once the areas give good geological indications they become more prospective. There is nothing like less prospective. Let me say, Sir, that we have not so far found very rich oil deposits in India. We may or we may not find such rich deposits.

So, I have given a general idea as to the activities of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and as to the reasons why we want to stick to a policy which has been very wisely and correctly pursued by the Government of India. But I want to make it clear that we want to make this policy a realistic one. It is a realistic policy. I have no doubt about it. Friends who want to come from abroad must know that the Government is anxious to follow a realistic policy. But the whole fundamental concept is that in the oil industry the initiative has to remain in the hands of the Government. The oil of the country has to be developed in the public sector. Wherever we have to associate others it has to be done in such a way that the main objective is not lost sight of. With that end in view the Government is pursuing a policy which is bearing fruit. We are having almost all sorts of activities under oil now. In the Third Five-Year Plan we propose to have transportation arrangements also made so that our cost becomes quite within reason.

My hon. friend, Shri Braj Raj Singh, has said that we have not been able to reduce prices and that it is very costly and all that. I am surprised at this because that is one of our best achievements. As a result of some long negotiations which started, from say about 1959, we arrived at some *ad hoc* agreements. New the approximate realisation from the oil companies on the basis of these *ad hoc* reductions so far achieved on bulk petroleum products would be about to Rs. 40 crores approximately as below:

In the first part from 20th May 1958 to 30th March 1959 it was Rs. 8·64 crores; later on it was Rs. 0·9 crores. Then from 1st April 1959 to 31st March 1960 it was Rs. 17.67 crores; from 31-10-60 it was Rs. 11.17 crores. Later adjustments accounted for Rs. 1·84 crores. An amount of Rs. 17.67 crores or roughly about Rs. 18 crores may be taken to represent the recurring accrual to the Government of India.

Shri A. C. Guha: Annual reduction in prices?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, about Rs. 18 crores. I do submit, it is not a small achievement looking to the difficult circumstances in which we had to face many of the problems involved in the oil industry. These negotiations are still going on. We have still to find out what cost should go into the pricing of oil. The conditions are also changing. There is depression also in the world market and a lot of factors have appeared in producing and consuming countries. Triangular interests have started clashing with each other. We hope that we have, by and large fairly understood the problems involved and so we proceed cautiously.

These negotiations are delicate. We cannot afford to take up a dictatorial attitude. We want the cooperation of those people who have more control over the situation. It is our object to reduce the drain, the flow of foreign exchange. With that end in view we have entered into an agreement with our Soviet friends, who have been helping us in exploration also, to sell us their petroleum products on rupee basis. We propose to follow this policy more vigorously, because that saves us sterling and dollar payment.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi (Puri): How does the price of that oil compare?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: That is a matter which I am not prepared to disclose. It is a secret of the Indian Oil Company which, I presume they are thoroughly entitled to keep to themselves. If I ask them, they can very well tell me: "Look here, don't bother us about it." But the fact, is that we have entered into an agreement with the Soviet Union for purchase of petrolum products on rupee payment basis. About 2 million tons we have thought of purchasing in Third Plan. Why should we not do it? Why should people misunderstand us? Let anybody who wants to sell us oil, sell it on rupee payment basis and we shall be prepared to examine all the proposals that come. We are, as a matter of fact, examining many proposals like that. The great advantage which has accrued to us in getting oil from the Eastern bloc is that we have to pay under trade agreements and that is a very great advantage. So, you will see that many gains have accrued to us as a result of the implementation of the Government of India's policy of 1956. I hope this policy will be pursued and that the nation as a whole will benefit by this policy that we are pursuing.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal (Uluberia): In yesterday's *Statesman* a news item has appeared that some pressure is being exercised and that foreign aid is proposed to be stopped if private investment by them is not allowed. It is also said that high level talk is going on between the hon. Minister and the Prime Minister. May I know whether the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn to this?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir, I do not know anything about it. I do not remember to have read that news also. All that I can say is that there is no misunderstanding. Things are going on smoothly and friendly countries are appreciating our attitude and there is no difficulty.

Mr. Chairman: May I know if the hon. Minister has anything to say about the cost of the Barauni refinery?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The cost of the Barauni refinery is not much. It is as good or as bad as any offer that we have received.

Mr. Chairman: Rs. 38.2 crores.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The cost of the Barauni refinery is not more than any other quotation that we could have got from any other side. The Barauni refinery is a somewhat complex. It is proposed to manufacture some lubricating oil and some other materials. We are deviating from the normal standards and it has to decolourise and de-wax oil also from Naharkotiya. That means a few crores more and that has been taken into consideration. It is not a costly project.

Shri Rajeshwar Patel (Hajipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House has been debating the achievements, lack of achievements, delayed achievements and other things of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel for the last five hours. This is an opportunity afforded to us every year, but I am afraid the impression that I carry is that the Ministry does not seem to benefit from any of the remarks made here. I am constrained to say so because every time the Ministry's attention is drawn to the delay in achieving our targets, the necessity of laying proper emphasis on creating conditions and making it possible for the Steel plants to get the raw materials urgently required by them,—these questions are always tackled in a very leisurely fashion.

I would give one or two examples from the Ministry's latest report to make my point clear. In the latest report it is said that they have not yet been able to instal the cold rolling mil's at Rourkela, whereas in the time-table that was given to the Estimates Committee as early as 1958 it

was said that the entire plant would be completed and full production at Rourkela would be possible by March 1960. Now, Sir, I wonder whether the Minister realises that each day lost means the country being forced to import steel from abroad. During last year (1960-61) we had imported iron and steel to the extent of about 11 lakh tons. The tool and special steel that we imported must alone have cost us in terms of foreign exchange about Rs. 25 crores. If only the Ministry had taken heed of the advice given to it by the Estimates Committee and other agencies including this House, I think it would not have been necessary for this country to have wasted about Rs. 25—30 crores on the import of special type of steel that we need. It is not merely to find fault with the Ministry that we have to take stock of its past activities. It becomes necessary for another reason also.

The Second Five Year Plan has ended. We have entered into the Third Five Year Plan. If I want to look back to the past it is only with a view to benefiting from the past, though the impression that I carry of the Ministry is that the officials never believe in the dictum to err is human; they therefore, do not learn from the mistakes of the past.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): May I know what particular thing is in the mind of the hon. Member when he says that the recommendations of the Estimates Committee were not heeded?

Shri Rajeshwar Patel: If the hon. Minister sees page 42 of the Estimates Committee's report he will find that the schedule of commissioning in respect of the Rourkela steel plant is given there. We warned them with regard to all the raw materials, about dolomite, about iron ore, or even about coal, that steps should be taken in good time. Already, in 1958, when we were examining the progress made in putting up washeries, in putting up mining facilities for the requirements of these steel plants, we had drawn pointed attention to this fact and warned them in advance that if they do not take proper steps now, the result will be that the plant will be ready but it will not be worked to full capacity for want of these raw materials.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Does the hon. Member seriously contend that the cold rolling mill has not been commissioned for want of raw material, because that is the point he is developing?

Shri Rajeshwar Patel: Your attention has been drawn to things which ought to have ben taken care of earlier. Therefore, it is for the Ministry to convince the House. The considered reply given by the Secretary of the Ministry to the Estimates Committee was that by March 1960 the Rourkela plant will acquire its full rated capacity, at the most there may be a delay of six months beyond that date. But today we are in April 1961. And even today we do not have the cold rolling mill commissioned there. Why is it being sought to be explained away, I do not know. If the hon. Minister tells us that we can afford to proceed in this leisurely fashion, I have nothing to say. All that I mean to say is that I wish the Ministry to realise the great importance and the key-role position that the Ministry is playing in the industrial development of the country. Whenever any Members try to find fault with things it is with the sole object of seeing to it that public sector industries fare better, such critics are unfortunately dubbed usually as persons who are opposed to the public sector. It is very easy to do that But I am afraid this kind of attitude is not going to help anybody for a long time. Truth will be out, whether it is today or tomorrow, and taking a long-range view of things I can say with all confidence and responsibility that the way these undertakings are

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developed and executed will ultimately lead to the discrediting of the public sector organisations more by the authorities themselves than by any critics whatsoever.

Yesterday Shri Morarka made a point that in order to deal with the problems more efficiently, the Hindusthan Steel Limited which is growing into a very big organisation should be broken up into three units. Well, the Estimates Committee also had made, not exactly that kind of suggestion, but a similar suggestion. It had suggested: "There might be a Local Board of Management for each project which could function independently in all local matters. It might consis. of the General Manager and all the Heads of departments of the project. The central co-ordination for the three projects which would be essential might continue to be provided by the Board of Directors of H.S. (P) Ltd., which might deal mainly with policy questions, matters of common interest, provision of finance, observance of Company Law requirements, etc." These are some of the suggestions which, if taken care of, might help the management a great deal in ironing out the small problems that seem to confront them often.

The attention of the Ministry has been drawn already to the shortfall in the capacities for raw materials, etc. I will draw their attention now to one or two other points, particularly with regard to the position of spares. One of the biggest defects in the present planning was not to have ordered for spares along with the plant. It is for want of spares that some of the units could not be commissioned in time or run efficiently. I do not know what the hon. Minister will have to say about it. He asked "How did it affect the setting up of the cold rolling mill?" It is quite possible that the cold rolling mill could not be commissioned due to the fact that the spares were not there. Now, we know it for a fact that if we get spares along with the plant, we get them cheaper. If we have to get the spares later, we have to pay very much higher prices and also there is delay. Even in the most advanced and technologically mature countries the quantity of spares which are kept ready with such plants of huge dimensions is of the order of 15 per cent. In our country, which unfortunately is sufficiently backward, we have to depend for our spares supply from the foreign suppliers who may take their own time to manufacture them. Therefore the project authorities had advised the Ministry to go in for the requisite quantity of spares. But for fear of rise in the estimates or for want of foreign exchange they decided otherwise, though the foreign exchange and the estimates did go up in any case—maybe for other reasons. We need them, and we only postponed them for some time. That did not mean that we could save that foreign exchange. We had to get them, as we are getting.

The question acquires added importance in our country for still other reasons. As you know, these plants are gigantic, complicated, most modern. Our own boys are not fully trained in handling them. Our supervisory staff are also not very much acquainted with these machineries, and our engineers also have to be fully acquainted and trained in the working of these things. The lack of experience and improper handling frequently result in breakages, and therefore the stock of spares comes to take a very very important place.

I will only quote from page 7 of the Directors' Report which clearly sets out the position in regard to these spares. The report says:

> "In some cases the rate of consumption of material and spares has been higher than originally anticipated, and the replacements based on normal expectations have been quickly consumed, thus causing set-backs in normal production."

Before I leave this point I may as well illustrate what I have said with respect to units which have actually suffered on account of this. The House remembers that certain diesel locomotives were cannibalised for want of spares, thus reducing the transport efficiency within the works. Similarly the Plate Mill L.D. Convertors and the Oxygen Plant at Rourkela have suffered. At Bhilai the Blooming and Slabbing Mills, the Steel Melting Shop and the Maintenance Shop have suffered. At Durgapur the Continuous Billet Mills have given trouble and they have also suffered. My only purpose in drawing the attention of the House to these points is this, that we are now planning for a new capacity of another 4 million tons. We propose to expand the existing capacity at Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur and also set up a new capacity at Bokaro, to begin with, for a million tons. So far, so good. The other day, I put a question to the hon. Minister as to whether any survey had been made regarding our future requirements of steel in this country, and he was pleased to say that his attention had been drawn to a survey report by the United Nations Steel Committee in Geneva, which envisaged that the country's requirements would go up to 28 million tons by 1970—75. But, now, for some reason or the other, maybe, because of the limitations of foreign exchange or other reasons, the Ministry has decided that we would go in for expansion only up to the limit of 10 million tons during the Third Plan period; it will do well to keep all these criticisms in mind, so that at least at the end of the Third Plan, we should be able to establish the capacity of 10 million tons. Even then, as we know, we shall be far short of our requirements.

There are certain steps now being taken with regard to the expansion. We have been informed in these reports that the project report for Bhilai is being worked out in Russia at a cost of Rs. 70 lakhs, and for Durgapur and Rourkela, it is being locally done in the Central Designs Organisation. But we are not told whether any project reports are being got ready for Bokaro or where it is being done or whether it is being done at all.

About the cost of expansion, it has been said that the foreign exchange content for the expansion in Bhilai is going to be 40 per cent, and at Durgapur, it is going to be 48 per cent, and at Rourkela it is going to be 55 per cent. I do not know why there should be such difference in the percentage of the foreign exchange content for these plants.

Another feature of the expanded capacity will be that we are going to put up blast furnaces and open hearth furnaces of a size which is precisely twice as big as the size of the furnaces which we put up in these three steel plants. I think, if I remember aright, some of our own experts then had suggested to Government and to the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel that it would be more economical to have larger and bigger furnaces, as we are now proposing to do, on the specific plea that it would be economic to have larger furnances. Though we were warned earlier, we did not pay any heed to that, and now we are being compelled to pay heed to it, but I do not mind even if we learn late, so long as we continue to learn.

As regards the cost of expansion, at Bhilai, it is said that the cost of expansion will be Rs. 920 per ton, and the cost of expansion per ton capacity at Durgapur will be Rs. 933, and at Rourkela Rs. 1125. The other day, I was reading in some newspaper or magazine on steel, coming from England, and it was reported therein that Britain was also thinking of expanding its steel capacity from 26 million tons to 34 million tons, and they propose to achieve it at a cost of precisely Rs. 600 crores, which works out at the rate of Rs. 750 per ton. I do not know why we should keep on spending so much more for creating fresh capacity. In this connection, you will recall that excluding the

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townships and the by-products and the ancillaries, the cost per ton at Bhilai was Rs. 1310, and at Durgapur Rs. 1380 and at Rourkela, it was Rs. 1700 per ton respectively.

In this connection, of expansion programme, it would be only right to benefit from the experience of the two other Indian concerns which went in for expansion. During the period of expansion, because of certain difficulties and defects in the initial planning and layout they had to cut down their present rate of production. We in the public sector cannot afford to do that and, therefore it will be good if we can keep our eyes on that aspect of the question, and to see to it that when the expansion programme is undertaken in those places the actual production capacity is not affected and we maintain at least whatever capacities we have been able to establish.

With regard to alloy steel, I am sorry that again I have to refer to the old question which has been coming before this House for as many years as I have been a Member here, namely about eight to nine years. Still, Government do not seem to have made up their mind or realised the importance or the necessity of putting up the requisite capacity for production of such steels. In the very first or second page of the report, it has been stated that the quantity imported in 1960, of alloy steel, was 46,131 tons whereas the estimated requirement for the five years to come is about 2 lakh tons, or thereabout. The actual imported quantity is only about 46,000 tons odd, which, as we all know is not all that the country needs; that is only a very small fraction, or, if not a very small fraction, only a part of the total requirements, and that too of only the raw materials, which come in the form of raw materials. We know that we have to import a large not have the raw materials for manufacture. If only allol steel of different varieties could be made available in the country, we might forego the necessity of importing so much of finished goods. In this connection it has been proposed that 35,000 tons of production will be earmarked for the ordnance factories. As we all know, our ordnance factories and other small producers are already producing about 10,000 tons of different varieties of alloy steel; I fail to see why these ordnance factories have not been asked by the Ministry for so long, because they have the know-how, and they are producing such steel even now. The one difficulty in setting up alloy steel plants is that we may not have the know-how, but here is an organisation already in the public sector which has got the know-how. Unfortunately, the Ministry never thought it necessary to ask them for so long to augment their capacity for production, so that even a part of the country's requirements could have been met, and crores of rupees worth of imports saved.

I am afraid that the programme that has been envisaged for expansion has not been worked out in a manner which can assure the House that this programme will be possible of achievement. I say so because we have not yet been able to fix up anything with regard to the Bokaro project; what I mean to say is that we do not know where from we shall find the foreign exchange component for that plant. Secondly, even with regard to the unit at Bhilai and other units which are already established, we have not yet been able to be ready with the project reports for their expansion. The Tatas also went in for their expansion, and we all know that they started their expansion programme in 1952, and even till March, 1961, they have not been able to achieve their rated expanded capacity. So, if we again proceed in this leisurely fashion and not take time by the forelock, I am afraid that we shall not be able to establish even the 10 million tons capacity by the end of the Third Five Year Plan.

Shri A. C. Guha: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think on the whole this Minis-

try deserves the congratulations of this House and also of the nation on its performance both in Coal and Steel. I shall first devote a few minutes to coal. During the entire period of the Second Five Year Plan, there were doubts expressed on the floor of this House on many occasions as to the capacity of the public sector to raise the allotted quantity of coal. The Minister also, though giving us some assurance, was not very sanguine about it. And there was some pressure exercised that the private sector should be allowed, if necessary, to expand its production capacity to meet the requirements of the industries as well as other requirements of the country. Coal is of such a vital importance that there should not be held any doctrinaire approach with regard to it except perhaps on one point, namely, that control over coal should not be by foreign capital. As long as it is Indian capital, particularly in the case of those who are already in the field of coal production, I think we should take a pragmatic attitude.

From that point of view, towards the end of the Second Plan period, the Minister announced that in spite of the Act that was passed a few years ago, the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, the private sector would be allowed to expand production in proximate areas. Anyhow, the private sector has been able to fulfil its target of 44 million tons—I think it has exceeded its target. We are happy to find that the public sector also, after making frantic efforts during the last few months, reached its target. By the end of March 1961, the annual production had reached 60 million tons or over-reached that target by a few more tons. From that point of view, it is an achievement.

At the same time, we should consider whether with this production we have been able to meet the requirements of the country. We find that there is scarcity of coal all over the country, in every State. Even in West Bengal, which is a coal-producing State, there is scarcity of coal. I myself have received several letters from my constituency—from semi-urban areas—to the effect that cooking coal for domestic use is not available. So apart from the question of industries, the ordinary consumers' interests have also to be looked after by the Ministry. I think the target of 60 million tons was not fixed on the basis of the requirements of the country, but on the basis of the finances that could be made available. I am afraid that the Third Plan target of 97 million tons also would fall short of our actual requirements.

During the end of the third year, or the beginning of the fourth year, of the Second Plan, I think the Minister gave us an idea that the target for the Third Plan would be near about 105 million tons or 110 million tons. I do not know how the Government or the Planning Commission arrived at the reduced figure of 97 millions. Is it on the assessment of the requirements of the country or simply on the assessment of the finance that can be made available?

The Second Plan Report emphasises the importance of coal in our industrial development. Everybody knows that without coal almost all our industries would come to a stand-still. So for the industrial development of the country, the production of coal should have the first priority, and fixation of target from the point of view of the availability of finance is not quite a wise course. Just as we have now been facing difficulties regarding the supply of coal, I think in the Third Five Year Plan period scarcity of coal and consequent difficulties in the way of industrial development will be still greater. I would, therefore, suggest that before the Third Plan allotment in this respect is finally settled, the Minister may kindly see if this target is really based on the assessment of the requirements of the country.

The target of 97 million tons would mean an addition of 37 million tons over the Second Plan target. They have divided this addition of 37 million tons as between the private sector

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and the public sector—17 million tons for the private sector and 20 million tons for the public sector. I think with the investment made in the public sector and the machinery and other equipment furnished, it may not be quite difficult for that sector to raise the additional 20 million tons. But one thing also should be considered in this respect. From which areas are these additional 20 million tons to be raised? We are now facing difficulties of transport. From the Report of the NCDC, we find that out of the 10 collieries, 2 have not yet fully gone into commercial production and for another 6, the main difficulty in the way of production is the lack of railway transport. So while developing our collieries and arranging production, we should see that proper adjustments are also made as regards the transport question.

From this point of view, I think Singareni should receive greater attention so that it can supply the southern part of India its requirements if not wholly, at least considerably. I think Singareni has been allotted about 5 million tons more. I do not know whether this target can be increased, so that the load on the railway and other transport systems of India can be lightened to that extent.

The NCDC has developed the Karanpura collieries against the advice of the Railway Board. This has created a serious problem in connection with transport. Moghalsarai, the greatest bottleneck on the railway system of India, has no further possibilities of additional sidings. I do not know how Government will arrange for the transport of coal from the Karanpura coal fields. This coal field was developed in spite of the caution sounded by the Railway Board because they apprehended transport difficulties.

So while allocating the additional 20 million tons to the public sector, the Minister may kindly see that it may be equitably allotted to different areas to minimise the load on transport. From that point of view, I would suggest that Singareni should get greater attention. I think Singareni can produce some more coal to cater for the needs of southern India.

So far as the transport of coal is concerned, it is now the greatest difficulty. We have seen some frantic reports. Pit-head stocks of coal have gone up to several million tons. The private collieries have to pay wages regularly even if they do not produce. Even if they produce, unless the coal is removed, they do not get the price. So it has created some sort of a crisis in the production scheme of the private sector.

13.50 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Moreover, there is also the risk of fire. So, the Ministry should see that along with the production of coal, a rationalised system of transport is also envisaged and arranged for.

There has been a suggestion that coal should be carried by road transport. I am not very much in favour of that because there will be some wastage of coal by road transport and there may be some avoidance of paying the cess and other dues also. Moreover, the road transport still now is completely in the private sector and in a sort of disorganised and chaotic state. There are no service rules and they hardly comply with the traffic rules. So, as far as possible, I am not inclined to encourage the private road transport to carry coal. But, when it is not possible for the Railways to carry coal, they have to find out some other ways. So, road transport has to be utilised. In this connection, I would mention that along with the production of coal, the transport of coal also should be thought of and arranged before hand.

One the production side, I have stated that the private sector has been given some additional 17 million tons. There have been some grievances in

the private sector of not getting proper facilities. I do not say that all the grievances are justified or genuine. But, I should like to mention only one case in this respect. The Coal Prices Revision Committee, about 30 months ago, recommended some cess to be given to the private collieries as a sort of subsidy and the amount collected, I am told, is over Rs. 1 crore but nothing has yet been paid to them. If the cess is being collected and if the policy decision has been taken that a portion of the cess should be given as subsidy to the private collieries, then I do not know why this should have taken nearly about 13 months for the Government to disburse the money? These are small things, but they are creating difficulties in the way of production of coal.

I now come to the question of washeries. The Kargali washery, I think, in 1960 washed only 50 per cent coal compared to its total capacity. It was set up about four years ago, but still it is not working properly and is not giving the due service which is expected of it. I do not know what is the difficulty. Moreover, I am, told, the rope-way has also been damaged. If this sort of thing goes on continually and the washery gives service which is only 50 per cent of what it is expected to give, then the Ministry should look into the entire question of the contract and see whether it is being properly fulfilled or not.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri A. C. Guha: Sir, I have not taken even 10 minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has taken 15 minutes. When did the hon. Member begin?

Shri A. C. Guha: Anyhow, I am coming to an end.

Then, I do not know what has happened to other three washeries: Dugda, Bhojudih and Pathardih. I do not think much progress has been made and this Report also does not mention anything.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member began at 13.39 hrs. That is in the record. It is now 13.55 hrs. So, 16 minutes have already expired.

Shri A. C. Guha: Sir, I will conclude in a minute.

Now, most of the collieries are being worked on a mechanised basis. So, there will be some wastage of slack coal also. From the washeries they would get about 6 or 7 millions of middlings. The Government should think as to how this slack coal and the middlings are to be utilised.

Then, about the amalgamation of collieries, I think the progress made so far is very little. I am not sure about the number of small collieries. I think, it will be about 150 or so. But, from the Report I find that only 32 collieries have been amalgamated.

Sardar Swaran Singh: More than 150; several hundreds.

Shri A. C. Guha: But only 32 have been amalgamated during the course of the last three years. I think, the Government should take some energetic steps and not leave it to the mercy of the small collieries.

Then, about the steel. I must appreciate the completion of 3 steel factories; it is a great achievement. But I would mention one thing. In the working of steel, I can understand, there will be some loss, because steel factories have not started working. But I would like to draw the attention of hte hon. Minister to one point. The auditors have reported that the loss is only about Rs. 1.18 crores. But, the Director of Commercial Audit, that is, the man of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, has pointed out that the real loss is Rs. 5.79 crores. I think, the auditors of the company have not done their job properly. They should disclose the true picture; they should not try to conceal anything from this House or from the Govment.

[Shri A. C. Guha]

Then, Sir, about oil I want to say one thing more. What about the drilling operations in West Bengal? Have they abandoned the drilling in West Bengal, or will the Natural Oil and Gas Commission undertake it themselves? I would suggest that there should be a refinery in Calcutta the biggest consuming centre in India. Oil has to be carried to Calcutta from other centres. I do not know why there should not be a refinery in Calcutta.

श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री (गुड़गांव) उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस्पात, खान और ईंधन मंत्री, सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह, और उन के सहयोगी, श्री मालवीय, अपने विभाग को जिस तत्परता और परिश्रम से चला रहे हैं, उस के लिये वे साधुवाद के पात्र हैं । परन्तु इस आवश्यक और महत्वपूर्ण विभाग से संबंधित इस प्रकार की जानकारियां मैं उन को देना चाहता हूं, जिन के विषय में वह गंभीरतापूर्वक विचार करें, ताकि कहीं ऐसा न हो कि वह जो इतने परिश्रम और तत्परता से अपने विभाग को देश के लिये उपयोगी बनाना चाहते हैं, उस के सम्बन्ध में इस प्रकार की कठिनाइयां न आ जायें कि उस के मनचाहे परिणाम न निकलें ।

जहां तक इस्पात उद्योग का सम्बन्ध है, हमारे देश में जितने विकास-कार्यक्रम चल रहे हैं, यह उद्योग उन सब कार्यक्रमों की रीढ़ की हड्डी हैं । योजना की सफलता, खाद्यान्नों का उत्पादन और छोटे बड़े उद्योग-धन्धे इसी पर निर्भर करते हैं । सरकार ने दुर्गापुर, भिलाई और राउरकेला के इस्पात-कारखानों का निर्माण भी इसी उद्देश्य से किया है । मैं इस्पात उद्योग से सम्बन्धित इस्पात कंट्रोलर के कलकत्ता स्थित कार्यालय के सम्बन्ध में कुछ आवश्यक सुझाव भी देना चाहता हूं । मुझे दुख है कि इस कार्यालय को जितनी तत्परता के साथ कार्य करना चाहिये, वह नहीं कर रहा है और उस का स्वाभाविक परिणाम यह है कि देश के इस प्रमुख व्यवसाय को जितनी उन्नति करनी चाहिये थी, वह नहीं हो पाई है और इस विभाग की शिथिलता, अकर्मण्यता और पक्षपातपूर्ण नीति के कारण करोड़ों रुपये की हानि देश के इस उद्योग को पहुंच रही है । सब से बड़ी बात यह है कि इस कार्यालय में कोई निश्चित नीति नहीं है । जो निर्णय आज किया जाता है, कल वह ज्यों का त्यों रह सकेगा, यह कोई आवश्यक नहीं प्रतीत होता । उदाहरण के लिये मैं कुछ बातें आप को बताना चाहता हूं ।

अप्रैल-सितम्बर, १९५९ के लाइसेन्स पीरियड में एक्चुअल यूजर्ज से वास्तविक उपभोक्ताओं से कहा गया कि वे तार के लिये अपने इन्डेंट भेजें, ताकि लोहा तथा इस्पात कंट्रोलर उसी आधार पर बाहर से माल आयात कर सकें । पहले तो उन के प्रार्थनापत्र बहुत समय तक विचाराधीन रहे और फिर विभाग का विचार बदल गया तथा वास्तविक उपभोक्ताओं से कहा गया कि वे इम्पोर्ट लाइसेन्स के लिये फिर प्रार्थना पत्र भेजें । इस प्रकार काफ़ी लम्बे समय तक वास्तविक उपभोक्ताओं को इम्पोर्ट लाइसेन्स नहीं मिले, जिस से उन को बहुत कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ा ।

और भी ऐसी ही अनिश्चित नीतियां और कार्यक्रम हैं, जोकि समय समय पर सामने आते रहते हैं । यह भी देखा जाता है कि इस्पात कंट्रोलर की तरफ़ से इम्पोर्ट लाइसेन्स सदा लाइसेंस पीरियड के अन्त में, जोकि चार पांच महीने का होता है, जारी किये जाते हैं । उन के जारी करने में प्रायः देरी होती है, और देरी भी इतनी की जाती है कि अन्त में आ कर लाइसेंस जारी किये जाते हैं । कई बार व्यापारी वर्ग ने इस कार्यालय को मैमोरेंडम भी दिये हैं और सरकार को भी इस प्रकार के आवेदन पत्र दिये हैं लेकिन अभी तक इस कार्यालय की नीति में

किसी प्रकार का कुछ परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ है ।

14 hrs.

विदेशी मुद्रा के बारे में भी मैं कुछ कहना चाहता हूं । विदेशी मुद्रा की राशियां नियत न होने के कारण जब लाइसेंस जारी करने बन्द कर दिये जाते हैं तो इस में कुछ इम्पोर्टर्ज को तो पहले ही आयात लाइसेंस मिल जाते हैं और बहुत से इन से वंचित रह जाते हैं और उन को अनिश्चित काल तक प्रतीक्षा करनी पड़ती है । इस गूढ़ पहेली के रहस्य का भी आप को पता लगाना चाहिये और देखना चाहिये कि विदेशी मुद्रा के अर्जन में इतनी देरी क्यों होती है ।

इसी कार्यालय के सम्बन्ध में एक और महत्वपूर्ण बात मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं और वह है स्टाकिस्टों की और एजेंटों की नियुक्तियों के सम्बन्ध में है । इस्पात कंट्रोलर के विभाग में रजिस्टर्ड स्टाकिस्टस, कंट्रोल स्टाकिस्टस और हैंडलिंग एजेंटस की नियुक्तियों के सम्बन्ध में कोई निश्चित नियम नहीं हैं और बहुत ही निरंकुश ढंग से इस कार्यालय के द्वारा नियुक्तियां की जाती हैं । इन नियुक्तियों के सम्बन्ध में न तो यह देखा जाता है कि पिछला इन का अनुभव कितना है और न ही यह देखा जाता है कि जिन की नियुक्तियां की जा रही है, उन के पास वित्तीय साधन भी हैं या नहीं और न ही उन की योग्यता को देखा जाता है और इस सब का परिणाम यह होता है कि अयोग्य आदमियों की नियुक्तियां कर दी जाती हैं । सब से बड़ी योग्यता जो नियुक्ति की है वह यह है कि जिस आदमी को इस आफिस में सीधी पहुंच होती है, उस की नियुक्ति आसानी से हो जाती है और यह नहीं देखा जाता है कि उस को इस काम का अनुभव है या नहीं । जैसे एक ब्याज पर पैसा देने वाला व्यक्ति था वह अधिकारियों तक अपनी पहुंच रखता था । उस को वहां पर हैंडलिंग एजेंट बनाया गया । इसी तरीके से एक स्टेनोग्राफसर था उस को कंट्रोल स्टाकिस्ट बनाया गया । अगर किसी को जिस को उस काम का अनुभव नहीं है, नियुक्त कर दिया जाता है तो उस का परिणाम यह होता है कि कार्य उतनी कुशलता से और दक्षता से नहीं हो पाता है जितनी कुशलता और दक्षता से वह होना चाहिये । कंट्रोलर के विभाग द्वारा यह जो नीति अपनाई गई है यह बड़ी ही दुर्बल नीति है । आज जब हम समाजवादी समाज की रचना करने जा रहे हैं तो इतना तो हम को अधिकार है कि कहीं किसी प्रकार की कोई त्रुटि हो, तो उस की ओर हम निर्देश कर सकें, उस को बता सकें और कह सकें कि यहां पर यह कमजोरी है । परन्तु दुर्भाग्य यह है कि इस विभाग में जो कर्मचारी हैं, वे थोड़ी सी आलोचना भी यदि उन की कर दी जाती है तो उस को सहन नहीं कर पाते हैं और इस का परिणाम यह होता है कि किसी का स्टाक होल्डरशिप रद्द कर देते हैं और किसी को किसी दूसरे प्रकारों से परेशान करने की कोशिश की जाती है । इस प्रकार के उदाहरण मेरे नोटिस में आये हैं, इस वास्ते मैं आप के सामने इन को रख रहा हूं । इस्पात कंट्रोलर की नुक्ताचीनी करने का अर्थ यह हुआ है कि एक व्यापारी को इसी तरह स्टाक होल्डरशिप रद्द कर दी गई । लोग नुक्ताचीनी अथवा शिकायत करने से इसीलिये डरते हैं और समझते हैं कि अगर इस प्रकार की चर्चा की जाय तो सम्भव है कि उन को परेशान किया जायगा ।

एक और बात इस विभाग के सम्बन्ध में मैं विशेष रूप से कहना चाहता हूं । इंडेंट देने में भी यहां पर बहुत देरी होती है । सामान्यतः उत्पादकों के पास इंडेंट देने में पन्द्रह दिन से अधिक का समय नहीं लगना चाहिये । पर होता यह है कि इस्पात कंट्रोलर ऐसे इंडेंट देने में महीनों लगा देता है और स्टाक रखने वालों को पता नहीं चलता है

[श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री]

कि इस बीच में उन के इंडेंटों पर क्या निर्णय हुआ है । इस्पात कंट्रोलर द्वारा जो इंडेंटों की योजना बनाई जाती है, उस का उद्देश्य इस्पात का उत्पादन और वितरण और वर्तमान पंचवर्षीय योजना की प्राथमिकताओं के आधार पर नियत होना चाहिये । सब श्रेणियों के इस्पात का संतुलित उत्पादन और वितरण होना चाहिये । पर यह विभाग इस में सर्वथा असफल रहा है । रजिस्टर्ड स्टाकिस्ट्स और एक्चुअल यूजर्ज के इंडेंट बम्बई के कलकत्ता या मद्रास के उत्पादकों द्वारा तैयार होते हैं । इसी तरह से कलकत्ता वालों के बम्बई या दिल्ली के अन्दर तैयार होते हैं जो बड़ी विपरीत चीज है ।

दो इस विभाग के क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय हैं, एक मद्रास में और दूसरा बम्बई में । इन क्षेत्रीय कार्यालयों के सम्बन्ध में सब से बड़ी कमजोरी की बात यह है कि जो अधिकारी वहां पर आप ने रखे हैं पहले तो उन को बहुत अधिक अधिकार नहीं दिये हुए हैं लेकिन जितने अधिकार दिये भी गये हैं, उन का भी वे पूरी तरह से उपयोग नहीं कर पाते हैं । जब कोई भी व्यापारी या कारखाना या व्यापारी संस्थान उन को कोई आवेदन पत्र देता है और कुछ कठिनाइयां उस के सामने उपस्थित करता है तो उन का काम यह है कि वे उस को कंट्रोलर के आफिस में कलकत्ता भेज देते हैं और वहां से उस के सम्बन्ध में स्पष्टीकरण मंगाते हैं । जिस तरह से गवर्नमेंट आफिसिस में किसी उत्तर के देने में देरी होती है तो एक मंजा हुआ और घिसा पिटा सा उत्तर भेज दिया जाता है कि विचार किया जा रहा है और समय आने पर उत्तर दिया जायगा, उसी प्रकार से अगर इन कार्यालयों से ऐसा भी उत्तर लोगों को प्राप्त हो जाय तो भी सन्तोष हो । पर इस प्रकार का भी आज वहां से उत्तर नहीं आता है । कहीं से कोई पत्र जाता है तो उस को कलकत्ता भेज दिया जाता है और वहां से जो सन्देश प्राप्त होता है, उस को व्यापारी के पास पहुंचा दिया जाता है, इस तरीके से ये क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय काम कर रहे हैं । सिवाय एक पोस्ट आफिस की तरह काम करने के उन की कोई दूसरी विशेष उपयोगिता नहीं है । आप को चाहिये कि मद्रास और बम्बई के क्षेत्रीय कार्यालयों को इस प्रकार का निर्देश आप दें कि जो भी पत्र उन के पास आयें, उस का कम से कम एक सप्ताह में कुछ न कुछ उत्तर आवेदनकर्ता के पास वे अवश्य भेज दें । ये दोनों ही कार्यालय सुस्ती और अकर्मण्यता के शिकार होते जा रहे हैं । इन के सम्बन्ध में आप को कोई दृढ़ता से निर्णय लेना चाहिये ।

अभी जो हमारे देश में नये कारखाने खुले हैं या जो पहले से चल रहे हैं, उन में देशी इस्पात के संबंध में कंट्रोल्ड स्टाकिस्ट्स नियुक्त किये गये हैं लेकिन उन के सम्बंध में भी सार्वजनिक रूप से कोई नोटिस नहीं निकाला गया है । इस का परिणाम यह हुआ है कि अपने अपने आदमियों की नियुक्तियां कर दी गई हैं । होना यह चाहिये था कि इस प्रकार की जो नियुक्तियां की जायें, उन के बारे में सार्वजनिक रूप से विज्ञापन दिये जायें, नोटिस निकालें जायें ताकि जो उन कामों को करने की योग्यता रखते हैं, वे भी आवेदन पत्र दे सकें और यह काम उन को मिल सके, जो इस को करने के लिये सक्षम हैं । चूंकि काम इस तरह से नहीं किया गया है, इस का नतीजा यह हुआ है कि व्यापारी वर्ग में असन्तोष की मात्रा बढ़ती जा रही है । मैं चाहता हूं कि जब आप अपने विभाग को एक व्यवस्थित विभाग बनाना चाहते हैं तो इस के सम्बन्ध में आप समय समय पर निरीक्षण करें और देखें कि क्या कमियां हैं और उन को दूर करने का प्रयत्न करें । जो श्रेय आप लेना चाहते हैं, वह न ले कर उनकी उदासीनता और लापरवाही के कारण आप अपश्रेय के भागी बनते हैं ।

अब मैं बदलाव के मौदों के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहता हूं । कच्चे माल की व्यवस्था

करने में राज्य व्यापार निगम ने कुछ बदलाव के सौदों की स्वीकृति दी थी और ये सौदे हमारे लिए उपयुक्त भी थे । बजाय इसके कि दूसरे देशों से माल मंगा कर उनको विदेशी मुद्रा दें, यह अधिक अच्छा था कि उसके बदले में हम अपने देश का सामान ही उनको दें । ऐसी हालत में इन सौदों का होना देश के लिए हितकर ही हो सकता है । माल के बदले माल देने से विदेशी विनिमय पर कोई भी किसी किस्म का प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता । लेकिन ऐसा लगता है कि इन सौदों के सम्बन्ध में काफी हद तक सावधानी नहीं बरती गई है । इस्पात मन्त्री सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह ने पीछे एक प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए बतलाया था कि देश में साढ़े ६२ हजार टन विदेशी ऐसे इस्पात का आयात हुआ है कि जिस के बदले में कोई निर्यात यहां से नहीं किया गया । यह भी पता चलता है कि उस आयात किए हुए माल का बहुत अधिक मूल्य देना पड़ा है । सच्चाई तो यह है कि इस प्रकार के जो सौदे होते हैं उनको इतना छिपा कर रखा जाता है कि किसी को भी उनके सम्बन्ध में कुछ पता ही नहीं चलता है । ऐसे सौदों के सम्बन्ध में न तो कोई सार्वजनिक नोटिस ही निकाला जाता है और न ही कुछ और कार्य किया जाता है, केवल उन्हीं लोगों को इसकी सूचना दी जाती है जो अधिकारियों के कृपा पात्र होते हैं । इसका परिणाम यह होता है कि जो दूसरे व्यापारी हैं, वे उनसे वंचित रह जाते हैं । सरकार का फ़र्ज है कि वह इस बात का ध्यान रखे कि उन्हीं लोगों को आयात लाइसेंस दिए जायें जो आवश्यक माल का निर्यात कर सकें । परन्तु इस विषय में सावधानी न रखने से मेरा अनुमान है कि देश को और हमारी सरकार को करोड़ों रुपये की हानि हुई है ।

ये जो बदलाव के सौदे होते हैं उनका मनचाहे ढंग से वितरण किया जाता है । होता यह है कि जो आयातकर्ता बदलाव के सौदों की योजना में माल मंगाते हैं उन्हें यह भी छूट रहती है कि वे जिसे चाहें माल दे दें । क्योंकि ऐसे माल की देश में कमी थी अतः उन लोगों ने वह माल अपने ही लोगों को दिया । जिन उपभोक्ताओं को उस माल की जरूरत थी उन्हें वह नहीं मिल पाया । भारत सरकार को चाहिये कि ऐसे बदलाव के सौदों के सम्बन्ध में एक कमेटी बिठा करके अच्छी तरह से जांच कराये और देखे कि इन से देश को लाभ हुआ है अथवा कुछ अधिकारियों ने कुछ फर्मों के साथ पक्षपात करके इस तरह के सौदों में देश को और हमारी सरकार को हानि पहुंचाई है ।

बदलाव के सौदों के सम्बन्ध में मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि चन्द व्यापारी ही इससे लाभ उठा रहे हैं । हमारे देश में इस्पात के करीब पांच हजार व्यापारी हैं लेकिन ये जो बदलाव के सौदे होते हैं ये केवल दो दर्जन व्यापारी ही कर रहे है । और इन दो दर्जन व्यापारियों में भी ६० प्रतिशत व्यापारी अकेले कलकत्ता नगर के ही हैं । यह बात उसी प्रकार से है जैसे कुलिहया में गुड़ फोड़ना कहते हैं । थोड़े से लोगों तक यह बात सीमित हो कर रह गई है । इसी आधार पर मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि कलकत्ते में जो इस्पात कंट्रोलर का आफिस है, उसका फिर से आप निरीक्षण करायें और देखें कि इतनी ज्यादा गलत बातों का यह कार्यालय क्यों शिकार होता जा रहा है । सम्भव है कि आपके प्रशासन को भी आगे चल कर इससे लांछित होना पड़े । इसलिए इस कार्यालय के सम्बन्ध में विशेष रूप से आपको पता लगाना चाहिये . . . .

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अब माननीय सदस्य समाप्त करें ।

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : मुझे पांच मिनट और दिये जायें क्योंकि मुझे और भी बहुत सी बातें कहने को हैं ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : एक मैम्बर साहब रह जायेंगे और उनको बक्त नहीं मिल सकेगा,

[उपाध्यक्ष महोदय]

इसलिए मुझे अफसोस होगा । माननीय सदस्य दो तीन मिनट में खत्म कर लें ।

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : बहुत अच्छा ।

इस कार्यालय में अनियमिततायें इतनी ज्यादा बढ़ गई हैं कि उन सब को इतने थोड़ेसे समय में गिनाना तो कठिन है परन्तु उदाहरण-स्वरूप एक ही बात मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं । एक जहाज भर कर अभी हाल में लाखों रुपये के इस्पात पदार्थों का गैर-कानूनी तरीके से भारत में आया था । इस जहाज में जो सामान आया, बाद में न जाने कैसे उसको आयोराइज्ड घोषित कर दिया गया । यह रहस्यपूर्ण बात है । आश्चर्य की बात तो यह है कि इस्पात कंट्रोलर के नाक के नीचे इस प्रकार की घटनायें होती हैं । आप पता तो लगायें कि इन सब बातों के पीछे रहस्य क्या है ?

इसी प्रकार से इस्पात कंट्रोलर जो टेन्डर देते हैं, उस में रहस्य क्या है कि उन टेन्डरों की शर्तें इतनी सख्त होती हैं कि हर एक व्यापारी उन टेन्डरों को नहीं ले पाता । इस का परिणाम यह होता है कि जो चतुर, चालाक व्यापारी हैं, जो हर तरह के रास्तों को जानते हैं वे वहां पहुंच जाते हैं और टेन्डर ले लेते हैं, यानी टेन्डरों की शर्तें इतनी सख्त होती हैं कि उन से दूसरे व्यापारी तो हतोत्साहित हो जाते हैं और टेन्डर नहीं ले पाते । मैं चाहता हूं कि उन के सम्बन्ध में सार्वजनिक रूप से विचार किया जाय ताकि सब लोग टेन्डरों को प्राप्त कर सकें ।

अन्त में दो बातें कह कर मैं अपने वक्तव्य को समाप्त करूंगा । मैं विशेष रूप से पब्लिक ऐकाउंट्स कमेटी की रिपोर्ट के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूं । पब्लिक ऐकाउंट्स कमेटी ने अपनी ३४ वीं रिपोर्ट में लिखा है कि अगस्त, सितम्बर, १९५४ में हमारी वर्क्स हाउसिंग मिनिस्ट्री ने एक कम्पनी के सम्बन्ध में उस की सब शाखाओं को ब्लैक लिस्ट पर रखने का आर्डर निकाला, और वह आर्डर सारे मंत्रालयों को प्रचारित कर दिया गया । लेकिन इस पर भी उस कम्पनी से सम्बन्धित लोगों ने किसी और नाम से दूसरी कम्पनी खोल ली, जिसे सन् १९५४ के अन्दर करीब ५२ ठेके, जिन की कीमत लगभग २३ करोड़ रु० बैठती थी, आयरन ऐंड स्टील कंट्रोल आर्गेनाइजेशन ने दिये । मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि इस प्रकार यह विभाग इतनी उदासीनता और शिथिलता से कैसे कार्य कर रहा है । अक्तूबर, १९५६ में इस्पात मंत्रालय ने अलग से एक आर्डर निकाला जिस में इस फर्म के साथ कोई बिजिनेस न करने को कहा गया था । लेकिन उस आर्डर के बावजूद भी उस कम्पनी को दस ठेके दिये गये और इस में देखने योग्य बात यह है कि आयरन ऐंड स्टील कंट्रोल आर्गेनाइजेशन को इस आर्डर के बारे में मालूम था कि इस कम्पनी के भागीदार वही लोग हैं जिन की कम्पनी को ब्लैक लिस्ट पर रखने का आदेश जारी हो चुका था । लेकिन इतनी जानकारी होते हुए भी यह कार्यालय बराबर शिथिलता पर शिथिलता बरतता चला जा रहा है ।

इसी प्रकार से एक और चीज कलकत्ते के एक पत्र में प्रकाशित हुई थी । मैं इस में विस्तार से तो नहीं जा सकूंगा लेकिन उस में आंकड़े दिये गये है तमाम बातों के कि किस प्रकार से एक कम्पनी थी जिस ने दो या तीन लाख रुपये से अपना व्यापार आरम्भ किया और दो वर्षों के अन्दर उस ने १४ करोड़ का व्यापार किया और उस में ५० लाख रु० का लाभ कमाया । २ लाख रु० से व्यापार आरम्भ किया जाय, दो वर्ष के अन्दर १४ करोड़ रु० का व्यापार हो और ५० लाख रु० कम्पनी को लाभ हो तो स्पष्ट बात है कि कोई गलत रास्ता इस प्रकार का अपनाया गया है जिस से जितनी कम्पनियां इस प्रकार की हैं वे इस्पात कंट्रोलर, कलकत्ता के कार्यालय में पहुंच कर आफिसर्स से मिल कर अनुचित लाभ उठा रही हैं । मैं समझता हूं कि समय आ

गया है कि कलकत्ता में इस्पात कंट्रोलर का जो कार्यालय है उस के सम्बन्ध में एक उच्चाधिकार प्राप्त समिति आप निर्धारित करें और उस के द्वारा इस कार्यालय की पूरी छान बीन करें। अच्छा तो यह होता कि इस कार्यालय को किसी दूसरे स्थान पर स्थानांतारत किया जाय।

Shri T. Subramanyam (Bellary): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the iron and steel sector forms the base of our industrial progress and it is a matter for gratification that our country has excellent raw material for this purpose. If we have to progress from a predominantly agrarian economy to an industrial economy, we have to strengthen this base. In the other countries, let us see the rate of production. The USA is producing about 115 million tons per annum; USSR is producing about 60 million tons per annum; West Germany is producing about 21 million tons; United Kingdom, about 20 million tons; France, about 13 million to 14 million tons and Japan, about 10 million tons. So, we are very far from these countries.

Our total reserves of iron ore are excellent. I was saying we have got very good resources. It is said that the world reserves of iron ore are 85,000 million tons, and that India has about 23,000 million tons which is more than a fourth of the world's reserves. We have got also considerable reserves of manganese. Such being the case, we are in an excellent and enviable position, and we should make full utilisation of these reserves and resources and march ahead.

With regard to the production at the end of the last year of the second Five Year Plan, the new plants set up at Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur have been commissioned, but the maximum production was not yet achieved. The expansion schemes of the Tata Iron and Steel Company and the Indian Iron and Steel Company were also completed. But, as I said, full production could not be achieved. In 1960, the indigenous production of finished steel was of the order of 2·26 million tons. We imported about one million tons. Therefore, the quantity of steel available for our use was about 3·2 million tons. But the demand in the country was of the order of 5·1 million tons. Therefore, there was still a margin and a gap which could not be filled by either import or by indigenous production. I hope that in the years to come, we will overtake this gap and be able to satisfy our internal demand.

About distribution, my hon. friend was saying just now that the arrangements, were not adequate or satisfactory. It is true that we have also received complaints from several places that the licences were not issued in time and that the quantity required for agriculture or even for small-scale industries was not made available in time. I am told just now that the position has very much improved, and in the latter half of 1961 the stockists have been asked to place orders for their quotas direct with the Iron and Steel Controller and there would be no difficulty except with regard to sheets of narrow gauge and wire. I am told that the difficulty relates only to these items and that otherwise there would be no difficulty. I hope that the manufacturers in the small-scale industry and those in the agricultural sector would not suffer. With regard to the quantity available and the quota-wise allocation of steel processing and small-scale industries, it is true that they have recorded an increase. In 1956-57, 428,000 tons were made available for that sector. In 1960-61, 983,000 tons were made available. Then, for the agricultural sector, in 1956-57, 101,000 tons were made available, while in 1960-61, it increased to 391,000 tons. It is a good increase and it is appreciable. But still, I feel that as complaints have been received from several other places, I hope that they will be attended to.

Now, I will say a few words with regard to the three steel plants in

[Shri T. Subramanyam]

the public sector. In Rourkela, the production up to 1960 was 218,000 tons, and in 1961, it is estimated that the production will be 512,000 tons. The costs have increased, as has been referred to by many hon. Members. But I will not go into the details as to what took place in the past except that it should act as a guide for us in future, when the estimates are to be prepared for the third Plan, and we should avoid such mistakes then.

It was estimated in 1956 that the cost would be Rs. 170 crores. Ancillary expenditure relating to townships and water-works and ores and quarrying and all that was of the order of Rs. 43 crores. An increase in cost is yet expected according to the revised estimate which we will have shortly, and we are told that there has been an increase in the cost of erection and in civil engineering expenditure. The expansion will be from 1 million tons to 1·8 million tons under the Third Five Year Plan. The project report is awaited.

With regard to Bhilai, which is a one million ton plant, it is a good thing that by-products also are being utilised by us. The ammonium by-product plant has been completed. The ammonium sulphate fertiliser plant has been set up. A benzol rectification plant has been set up. The coal tar distillation plant has also been set up. They are being commissioned. The cost as has been referred to by several hon. Members, has risen. It was Rs. 178·68 crores in 1957; it is likely to go to Rs. 200 crores. With regard to the future, in the third Plan the production is estimated to increase from 1 million tons to 2·5 million tons.

With regard to Durgapur, it is also another I million ton to plant. Again with regard to this, we find that the costs have gone up from Rs. 138 crores to something higher. There is also a separate provision of Rs. 29 crores for township, water works and iron ore and quarry works. But even this is not enough. It is likely that the revised estimate will be higher. With regard to expansion, it will be expanded from 1 to 1·6 million tons.

By the end of the third Plan, our demand will be about 10 million tons. For this, we will have set up an installation capacity of 6 million tons in our country by the end of the second Plan. To this, 3 million tons will be added by the three steel plants and one more million ton capacity will have to be installed. For that, there is a proposal to set up a separate project at Bokaro. Therefore, we hope that by the end of the third Plan, we will have met the requirements of the country completely and 10 million tons would have been installed.

With regard to alloy and special steel, I would like to say a word. The quantity of tonnage imported was 188,000 tons. Alloy and special steel require specialised equipment and processes for which electric furnaces also could be utilised. Therefore, not only in areas where coal is available, but even in areas where electricity is available in bulk we can have such plants. We are told that our requirement in this regard by the end of the third Plan would be of the order of 200,000 tons. Now we are producing only 10,000 tons in our ordnance factories and in a few small units in the private sector. We have to step up this to 200,000 tons. The provision is that the production in the ordnance factories should be increased to 35,000 tons. Durgapur is to produce 50,000 tons, Bhadravati 15,000 tons and Tatas 50,000 tons. There is a small margin of 50,000 tons to be taken up by others.

About Bhadravati, I would like to say something. Bhadravati should have been commissioned by the end of the second Plan. Expansion schemes of the Tatas and Indian Iron and Steel Company were completed

by the end of the second Plan. Bhadravati also should have gone into production, but there has been a lot of delay in this. I do not know the the reason. We are told that orders have been placed for plants and other things. I feel there has been a lot of delay and I do not know who is to blame for this. I suggest in this context that since we are thinking of having alloy and special steel plants, Bhadravati is appropriately and suitably situated to take up this production. Electricity from Sharavati is going to be available by the end of 1962 in large quantities. This is the largest generating station in India with an ultimate capacity of 1 million KW. Therefore, Bhadravati is eminently situated for this purpose and I urge on the Government that an alloy and special steel plant should be started at Bhadravati as early as possible.

I would like to say something about small pig iron plants. There is a lot of demand from the foundries in the various parts of the country. No doubt in 1960, 1 million tons of pig iron was made available for these foundries, small-scale industries and also for the agrciultural sector. But there is an economic limit with regard to this thing, because the pig iron to be manufactured by these integrated steel plants at Rourkela, Bhilai and other places will be required for the production of steel in those very places. Therefore, pig iron will not be available in any appreciable quantity for other purposes and for these foundries. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that we should provide amenities and facilities for new sources to be established. Suitable types of furnaces could be utilised, making use of local iron ore as also non-coking coal or lignite. There are already two units in this context, one in Orissa and the other in Chanda in Maharashtra. There is scope for this in South India.

Referring to Bellary district, I must say that we have got excellent iron ore of the most precious variety and in abundant quantity in this area. It is eminently situated for this sort of unit of say, 100,000 tons. You can make use of the Neiveli lignite or the Singareni coal. We are very likely to have electricity from the Sharavati Valley. Making use of all these factors, which will be available there, one excellent unit could be started. I urge on Government that every help should be rendered to this.

There is scope in South India for large re-rolling mills also. Re-rolling mills can be started in several centres in the south. For this purpose billets or scrap will have to be used. We are exporting a large quantity of scrap and there are always transport difficulties and other difficulties. From these centres in north, it is difficult to reach some places in South India and convey all these steel and iron commodities. Therefore, to economise in this context and also to avoid the transport difficulties, it will be quite economical if we start re-rolling mills in South India. I urge on Government that every facility should be provided with regard to starting these re-rolling mills.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, one economist has said that steel, mines and fuel which are the emblems of progress, civilisation and science, are the three wheels of a living nation. If any country makes headway in the production of these basic things and can achieve self-sufficiency, then even a cynic cannot deny that the country is marching ahead. Consumption of steel is considered as the yardstick of the standard of living. This is being produced at the present moment in the three steel factories which have been set up in the public sector and one is going to be set up during the third Plan.

But the mere setting up of the plants will not solve the problem nor can it lead us to the path of prosperity unless the working of these factories

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is satisfactory and the usufructs are meant for the people at large. The working of these steel factories is far from satisfactory, except, of course, the case of Bhilai, which has been already proved by Shri Morarka by satistics. He has cited the observations made by Sir Eric Coates who led the Colombo Plan team of experts in connection with the Durgapur steel plant.

I would not have been so much perturbed by the observations made by him, although they are quite true, had not the Financial Adviser of this project commented adversely in his periodical reviews about the working of this project. The Financial Adviser has said that the working of the steel projects virtually follows the line of a Government department. I am quoting him:

> "It is necessary to evolve an organisation and to adopt methods of work generally in conformity with the business practice. Unless this problem is taken in hand immediately, the possibility, perhaps the likelihood, of a break-down in the administrative machinery and in the working of the plant cannot be ruled out."

So far as Durgapur plant is concerned, I think the help of ISCON, the British consortium, who constructed this plant, is sought even at the present stage. It has come out in the papers that, in regard to the supply of diesel oil by ISCON to the project authorities, between December 1959 and May, 1960, ISCON supplied 79,000 gallons of diesel oil, the price of which was taken at a much higher rate and the project had to pay Rs. 27,000 extra on this account.

Moreover, a wrong picture has been sought to be given in the accounts. In the company's account of 1959, the Comptroller and Auditor-General of Accounts in his terse comment has said that though the loss has been shown as Rs. 1·8 crores, still the actual loss amounts to Rs. 5·79 crores. The Auditor-General has also drawn attention to the loss of production at Rourkela which is considered to be to the tune of Rs. 90 lakhs while that of Durgapur is about Rs. 32 lakhs.

I would like to emphasis another point, and that is about the trade union relations in the steel factories, especially the trade union relations in the Durgapur Steel Factory. I must say that it is far from satisfactory. Not only that, it is growing worse day by day. I do not know who are responsible for the trade union relations, whether it is the Ministry of Labour and Employment or the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel or the State Government or all of them. There is much discontent at present among the employees of the Durgapur Steel Factory. The provisions of Factory Law and other labour legislations are never observed in this factory.

Some legitimate grievances of the employees of the Durgapur Steel Factory have been pending for a long time, and there is no Ministry, there is no authority to take up their grievances. There are so many discrepancies in the matter of project allowance. The project allowance which is being given at the rate of 12½ per cent at Bhilai is not being given to the employees of Durgapur Steel Factory. There leave is being granted in an ingenious way. Leave is availed of first by the employees and their salary is also deducted. After three or four months when the leave is adjusted against the leave due, the deducted salary is refunded.

Over-time is adjusted against leave due. This is against the provisions contained in the Factory Law. Safety provisions are never observed here, and the rate of accidents is comparatively higher in this factory. Even the semi-skilled or unskilled workmen are required to man the machines. Though the population of the township is about 25,000, still

there is not a single school for the children of the employees excepting one school which is generally meant for the employees of ISCON and which is not affiliated to any Indian University or Board. No rest house is attached to any shop though the number of employees exceeds 250, nor is there any cheap canteen or labour welfare centre which is beneficial for the workers.

The trade apprentices there even though they have completed their course long ago have not been put on any regular scale. Quarters for class IV staff have not been arranged for in the Durgapur Steel Factory. Again, in that factory employees are recruited on one designation and after some time they are re-designated and put in another category to the detriment of their interests. Provincialism is too much rampant in this factory. The claim of local people for service in that factory was generally neglected, but with the intervention of the Labour Minister of West Bengal the situation has eased to some extent.

Lastly, there is the attitude of the foreign technicians. The attitude of the foreign technicians there is very much deplorable. The foreign technicians there are sometimes even assaulting the Indian employees. On 17th April one Indian employee was assaulted by a foreign technician within the factory premises. Even day before yesterday the same thing happened. An employee of the power plant has been assaulted. These are very bad omens for the future, and I would request the hon. Minister to take immediate steps in these matters so that the Bhilai incident is not repeated in Durgapur also.

The Security Department there is not looking after the security of the factory. I can give you one instance. For several months hundreds of tons of pig iron have been smuggled out of Durgapur factory. I will tell you how it has happened. There is no wall on the side of the Ondal railway station where slags are dropped. There is an open field and a non-metalled road. The pig iron casting section is nearby and cast iron blocks are stacked there. When the Wagons go to drop the slags they carry the pig iron and trucks are loaded from there. When the number of trucks carrying pig iron began to increase, there was suspicion in the minds of the local people. One night the Defence party of that area caught hold of one such truck loaded with pig iron and several tons of pig iron were recovered. But in that truck there was one person belonging to the security department. All the persons were arrested at the instance of the S.D.O. of Asansole and handed over to the police. I do not know what has happened after that. This happened in the month of January. We have now come to know that due to the intervention of a Congress M.L.A. all this has been hushed up.

Shri A. C. Guha: Why does he drag the Congress M.L.A.? Could he give the name of the Congress M.L.A.?

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): So we know what has happened.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Nothing has happened.

As regards coal, there has been, no doubt, some shortfall in the raising targets. But that shortfall in the raising is not a problem because the deposit at the pithead of collieries amounts to 3.4 million tons at the end of 1960. The main immediate difficulties are two-fold—transport difficulty and non-availability of high grade coal.

The transport difficulty can be solved only by more supply of railway wagons. If roads can be developed, because roads in coalfield areas are in a very scandalous state of disrepair for several years, we can

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divert the transport of coal to roads. The Government has taken a decision to transport two million tons of coal annually by sea from Calcutta to nine ports. 42 ships of 5,600 tons each are needed to ensure 30 sailings a month from Calcutta Port. But there is not the labour, lighter and wagons to speedily discharge and tranship the cargo at the receiving ports. If the discharge is slow, more than 42 ships will have to be pressed into service. The four southern ports today handle 14 coal ships a month. To receive additional ships will be very difficult as the turnover of ships in southern ports is longer than in other ports. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to look into this matter so that another problem is not created in the matter of availability of ships.

With the expansion of steel projects, railways and other vital industries, the necessity of production of high grade coal has become necessary. This may be done in two ways—by coking coal and by extracting more high quality coal. So the necessity of coal washeries has been of utmost importance. The ash content in low grade coal is as much as 32 per cent., and for this the cost of steel goes up to Rs. 3 per ton. So the locomotive cannot move at the scheduled speed and our industries cannot be run with this low grade coal.

I do not understand why there is unconscionable delay in the setting up of coal washeries at Dugda, Bhojudih and Pathardih.

The other alternative is that intensive endeavour should be made to locate areas of high grade coal. The Geological Survey of India has recently located two important coking coal seams in Raniganj and efforts should be made to work out these lines. As an interim measure, of course, we shall have to depend on the blending procedure. Proper method of blending of coking coal and non-coking coal should be followed in order to reduce the quantity of high grade coal. Except at Durgapur steel plant, no arrangement has been made at any other steel works for blending of coals of different varieties which would conserve 20 to 30 per cent. of our coking coal.

I learn that about 80 collieries of Bengal-Bihar field in the private sector have applied for permission to work out these mines. Most of these mines are not new but old ones. But they have stopped working due to other difficulties. I have no objection if the collieries are acquired by the National Coal Development Corporation and worked by them. But if we do not intend to acquire them, why could the private sector not be allowed to open the collieries in order to raise coal production? I request the hon. Minister to look into these things as soon as possible.

Regarding iron ore, the Geological Survey of India have recommended that at least ore containing 65 per cent. of iron should not be exported. I am glad that the STC is trying to export low-grade iron ore. They want to increase the quota of export from 3.5 million tons to 7 million tons at the end of the Third Plan in the case of iron ore. Therefore, I would request hon. Minister to see that iron ore which contains more than 65 per cent. of iron is not exported in the interest of our steel plants.

Lastly, I would request the hon. Minister to see that the iron ore mines are mechanised. Otherwise, it would be difficult for us to supply iron ore and coal, which would be required for the gradual expansion of our industries. The hon. Member, Shri Patel, has just now stated that we started these steel factories before starting the ancillary necessities which will supply the raw materials to the steel factories. It happened in the case of Bhilai, where the factory was established before the iron ore

mines were mechanised and before the railway lines were laid, with the result that for some time the production had to be curtailed due to short-supply of iron ore from mines to the factory.

Coming back to Durgapur, again, I would request the hon. Minister to see how far the suggestions given by me about labour conditions can be implemented. Then, of course, I think there will be no difficulty in solving the problem. It is also necessary for the smooth working of the steel plants, which all of us want.

Shri Oza (Zalawad): Sir, we have just finished the Second Five Year Plan and have embarked upon a more ambitious Third Five Year Plan. This Ministry occupies a place of pride in planning, and rightly so because only through it can we lay a sure foundation for the rapid industrialisation of this country. We have accepted that only through industrialisation we can change the occupational pattern of this country and bring some prosperity to the people who, for historical reasons, are very backward.

Now, can we say that during the Second Five Year Plan or, for the matter of that, in our annual budgets we have grudged funds or resources for this Ministry? I think whatever slender resources we have, both external and internal, we have made available to this Ministry for their scheduled progress. Much criticism has been levelled in this House against so many aspects of this Ministry, particularly regarding the steel plants, that they have been suffering from so many defects, such as bad planning, lack of co-ordination, bad estimates and so on. I have heard the hon. Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel last year, and also on several occasions, and I know that the cost has gone up because of the escalator clauses in the agreements and so many new things which are being put up. So, from Rs. 353 crores the figure has gone right up to Rs. 603 crores.

Now that the money is spent on so many things—I do not cry over spilt milk, even if it is partially spilt, because I leave it to them—one thing I want to urge, and that is this. When the nation has been paying for all these projects through its tears—I would not say their blood and sweat only—then it becomes imperative for them to see that these projects start yielding results according to schedule. When the projects do not start giving results according to schedule, people get frustrated and they think that all the sacrifices have gone in vain. Not only that. The country also suffers in the matter of foreign exchange, because so many other projects also suffer as steel is not available to them in sufficient quantities. So, there is overall sense of frustration. Therefore, I would urge on the Ministry that in the Third Five Year Plan, as we are expanding the present units and also undertaking a fourth unit, they should see that, because of lack of co-ordination, because of lack of initiative or because of red-tapism creeping in everywhere in spite of there being a statutory corporation enjoying very wide powers and freedom from all governmental and routine difficulties, sufficient progress is not retarded. They should learn from the past experience of putting up these three steel plants and see that during the Third Plan the progress will be according to schedule and the nation will benefit by the products that are envisaged by these plants.

I entirely agree with the view that the target must be 10 point something million. There is a view-point in this country, we know, that it would be a very big target impossible of achievement or that it will not be necessary because so much is not required. But I think they are erring on the lower side. Because, the United Nations team carried out a survey of requirements of Indian steel for the next 25 years and they said that it will be 28 million tons at the end of the next 25 years. But, even then, what will be the average

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consumption of steel in India? It will be one-third of the average consumption of steel in the world. Even after 25 years, having exerted so much, having strained our resources so much to achieve a target of 28 million tons, we will be consuming one-third of the average world consumption of steel. Therefore, whatever money we can spare, we should spare more and more to bring up this base of heavy industries, steel, which in turn will set a snow-ball phenomenon in motion and so many other industries will get started.

In this connection, I would agree with the hon. Member from Mysore, who stated that the Government should also set up re-rolling mills because, after the steel plants going into commission fully, those re-rolling mills which are sometimes suffering from scarcity, they should also be properly fed. At present, nearly 150 re-rolling mills are operating in this country; not to talk of secondary type of factories, the primary factories number 150. If we look at the capacity of these 150 re-rolling mills and say that it is not necessary to put up a new re-rolling mill, I do not think it is a wise decision. I know that so many people, who are owners of re-rolling mills, are urging before the Ministry that we should not licence further units because they are capable of processing whatever steel we can supply. But, from the point of view of dispersal of industries, and also from the point of view of avoiding bottlenecks in transport, I think it would be wise for the Ministry to follow the advice given by my hon. friend over there, that there must be some fresh re-rolling mills coming up in this country.

Coming to coal, I congratulate the Ministry for having achieved the coal target of 60 million tons.

I also wish him god-speed in achieving the target of 97 million tons set for the Third Five-Year Plan. As has been rightly pointed out coal is the source of power and it makes possible so many industries to run. But in spite of production going up an acute shortage continues to occur in several parts of the country. There also we find that there was lack of co-ordination between the Railway Ministry and this Ministry. It may be that because of the Planning Commission's error somewhere it has so happened because the Railway Ministry asserts that the railways are moving 42 million tons outside the steel sector as compared to 41 million tons expected of them. They assert that they are moving one million ton more. It seems that in 1958 the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel had cut down its production target to 56 million tons and accordingly the Railways also as a consequence cut down their programme of transport. The result is that this bottleneck has been created. The Planning Commission should have informed the Railway Ministry in time that the original target of 60 million tons had been restored and therefore it should create possibilities of transporting all this coal from the coal fields, particularly to the western sector. But because somehow or the other it escaped the notice of the Planning Commission this tragedy has occurred and may I point out that in this tragedy the worst suffererd has been the western sector from which I come. So many factories, big and small, are going out of commission.

Shri M. B. Thakore (Patan): Cotton mills also.

Shri Oza: That is why I said 'big and small'. They are going out of commission because it is not possible for the railways to transport the coal which is piling up at the pits. Recently, fortunately the Ministry of Shipping has undertaken to transport coal to the western region by steamers. One million tons of coal will be transported by steamers to the western region. We are highly thankful to the Shipping Ministry for making that provision and the western coast will benefit by that, I

am sure. But that alone will not solve the problem because the steamer freight rate will be absolutely prohibitive as compared to the railway freight rate. If coal is brought by steamers to the western coast and then made available to the industries in the interior, they shall have to pay through their nose the very high freight rates of steamers and also railway freight to some extent.

Therefore we have been urging that like any other commodity, such as, sugar, steel and cement, coal should also have a pool price so that all the producers throughout the country do not suffer from any handicap and they do not have to pay a higher price for this primary motive force. I think it would be unfair to ask them to compete with the more favourably situated industries in the eastern region if we do not have a pool price for coal. I think the sooner the matter is decided by the Ministry the better it is. It has taken a very long time. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to expedite the decision and to supply coal to all stations in the country at a pool price, that is, at a uniform rate. Only then, I think, it will solve the problem. But if they cannot do it, I will request the hon. Minister that he should at least subsidise the freight on the western coast so that people who are purchasing coal from those centres do not find the price in a manner prohibitive. I think when the country is under one Constitution and when so many commodities are having a pool price, coal which is also very important in the matter of production should also have a pool price and urgent importance should be given to this factor.

Coming next to oil, we are highly thankful to the hon. Minister for his excellent elucidation this afternoon. I was also suffering from some misapprehensions. I must frankly admit that. Before he spoke I also thought that just like water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink, it is oil, oil everywhere but not an Indian oil drop to use. I was also suffering from that sort of illusion, I would rather say. But he has cleared many points and we are really grateful to him.

I would say that I am one with him so far as his ideological thinking is concerned. I also do not yield my palm to anybody so far as this thing is concerned. I am also interested in developing the public sector and in not allowing this vital industry to go into the private sector. But sometime I think that as it is said in Marxism—there are no Marxist pundits here, but with their kind permission I would say—that too much deviation to the left amounts to reaction, in the same way in a particular context if we give too much emphasis to ideological grounds and not make available our natural resources to the country when it badly needs them, we will perhaps be doing some disservice to the prosperity of the country. So we will have to strike a proper balance between the immediate needs of the economy of our country, our foreign exchange and all these things and then decide what steps we have to take. After all, we are a sovereign country and we should and suffer from any industry complex or from some obsession that these foreign companies will play some unsocial role in our country. I do not think that it will happen.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Will he please suggest any specific deviation that he considers proper for advancing the cause of the oil industry?

Shri Oza: He knows it best because he is in charge of it and you know all the details.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: But he should know better as he is suggesting a deviation.

14:56 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Shri Oza: In Assam it took eight years to refine oil and still oil is not

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there. You say that in Gujarat you will be able to refine oil during the Third Plan period.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I explained that. I am sorry that he was not here then. It is wrong to think that for eight years oil was lying idle to be exploited.

Shri Oza: Then I would be very thankful to the hon. Minister if he could set up a refinery during the middle portion of the Third Plan period as he promised. I would be simply grateful to him. We know all the difficulties that we are facing in Gujarat so far as oil is concerned. In Gujarat there is no hydro-electricity. Because coal cannot be had and as foreign exchange is not avaiable we cannot put up thermal stations. We are facing so many difficulties about power. We can actually say that in Gujarat industries are getting strangled. There is technical know-how. There is capital. But because of lack of power today the existing industries in Gujarat are languishing, what to talk of new industries coming up. As I said, there are no possibilities of any hydro-electricity being available to Gujarat. There are no possibilities of very big expansions so far as thermal electricity is concerned. In that context I would humbly request the hon. Minister to appreciate our apprehensions. I would urge upon him to expedite all these things and make available furnace oil, diesel oil and all these things to the languishing industries and the industries which are expected to come up and go ahead. In the larger interests of the country I would urge upon him and request him to do this.

It was good of so many hon. Members to have suggested that there must be two refineries in Gujarat, one at Ankleshwar and another at Cambay. If I had done that, perhaps it would have been dubbed as parochialism or some such thing. But all hon. friends, coming from all parts of the country have suggested that.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I want three, if I can have them.

Shri Oza: I thank him very much. He has promised only one. That is all I know.

Then it was pointed out by our hon. friend, Shri Vittal Rao, that pumping of oil from Ankleshwar to Bombay may perhaps be uneconomical. He said that power will be required at several points to boost up and pump oil. But where is the power in Gujarat? That is a difficulty. In the larger national interests it is more economic....

Shri Rami Reddy (Cuddapah): There is atomic power.

Shri Oza: He does not know. It is not going to be situated there. But we do not grudge that. Wherever there is potential, in any part of the country, for developing any industry, that should be utilised. I am not talking only from a regional point of view. I am talking from a larger point of view. Wherever there is scope, capital, technical know-how, resources, natural resources and minerals, we should set up industries in the larger interests of the country because we want to industrialise the country. There are no separate, absolute pockets in which things are absolutely unconnected with each other. That is what I wanted to request the hon. Minister of Oil.

15 hrs.

Coming to minerals, I have only to make one request. In certain parts of Saurashtra bauxite is occurring in a very large quantity. From bauxite we all know that aluminium can be manufactured. But that requires a very large quantity of water as well as electricity which is not available or is not going to be available in the foreseeable future in that part of the country. On the other hand, at present prospecting licences and mining leases are not being given. I was wondering whether any intermediate processing plants could be installed there.

If it could be done, then this very rich type of bauxite can be utilised. These intermediate process factories cannot produce aluminium as a final end product. But it can increase the aluminium content of bauxite and make it richer and easier to export. This aspect may be taken into consideration by the Ministry.

At present what is happening is that large quantities of bauxite are lying idle. Neither can it be sent to foreign countries to earn foreign exchange, nor can it be processed. There is some confusion in that sector. I would request the hon. Minister to go into this question thoroughly and find out how this wealth of the country can be utilised in the large interests of the nation.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the Members of the House belonging to different parties and coming from different parts of the country who have participated in this debate. So far, Sir, as many as twenty hon. Members of the House have spoken and have given the House the benefit of their observations on various aspects of the activities that are carried on under the care of this Ministry.

Sir, we are at the end of the Second Plan Period and it was, therefore, natural that hon. Members took stock of the position, sized up the situation, had a look at our targets of the Second Plan and had observations to make that there have been failures or slips. I greatly welcome this opportunity because it affords a proper background and enables not only me, but also others who are entrusted with the task of executing the various schemes, to get the benefits that flow from the advice and observations that fall from the lips of hon. Members.

Sir, I would say a few words about coal. I am very grateful to hon. Members who have touched on coal, because there has been a general appreciation for the work that has already been done in the matter of achievement of production target. The House is aware of the targets that we had for completion during the Second Plan Period. We had to touch a figure of 60 million tons rate of annual production during the last quarter of the last year of the Second Plan period. What has been the performance both in the public and the private sector? We have to see as to whether this target has been achieved.

Take, Sir, the public sector. The additional production was to be from expansion of Singareni collieries, and expansion of production from the existing collieries of NCDC and also production from new collieries to be opened up by NCDC. So far as the Singareni Collieries are concerned, I am glad to report that the target rate of production of 3 million tons set for these collieries has been achieved. The additional production was 1·5 million tons and they have already exceeded the rated production of 3 million tons per year. The NCDC was to reach a target production of 13·5 million tons a year. I would like to give the figures of production in NCDC collieries during the last three months.

In January, the NCDC produced 10,40,577 tons; in February, a month of 28 days, the NCDC collieries produced 10,89,797 tons; in March last they produced 12,99,025 tons. Thus if we take an average of these figures for January, February and March, it will be found that rated production per year comes to about 13·7 million tons against the target, of 13·5 million tons. This is a creditable performance when we look to the numerous difficulties that the NCDC had to face. I would be frank enough to admit the charge that Shri A. C. Guha levelled against me that even I myself was not fully sanguine as to whether the NCDC would be able to reach this rated production of 13·5 million tons a year. And I was cautious and I used to say that all the physical arrangements necessary to reach the target of production would be in position by the end of the Second Plan period and even if they are not able to reach

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that level of production, they would be able to reach that level of production at the outside within about six months of the commencement of the Third Plan period. I am happy, Sir, that I have been on this score defeated and the NCDC by their enthusiasm and hard work have scored a point against me and I would, Sir, readily admit my pleasant defeat and congratulate the management of NCDC, the large number of engineers, and above all, the large body of workers but for whose active co-operation, it would not have found it possible to achieve this magnificant performance.

This is important for a variety of reasons. For one thing, when as a result of the Industrial Policy Resolution, Government decided to expand the public sector in coal production, there were many critics. Privately many of the people who have been in coal for a long time always used to frighten me that although these targets have been assumed for completion and execution, during the Second Plan period, mining is a very difficult and time-consuming process and although these paper plans are there, the NCDC because they have to open new collieries in virgin areas will not be able to achieve any results and later on it will be discovered by Government that the targets had not been reached.

Then, Sir, you might recall that there has been criticism in the Press that ideologies are coming in the way of realisation of the targets, the argument being that the private sector is not being permitted to expand, while the public sector will not be able to perform its job. That was the general tenor of the criticism. I am very glad to report, however, that not only the public sector, but the private sector also has reached the target which was set for it. If the targeted production has been reached by the private sector as also by the public sector, then it is a matter of satisfaction for all of us to recall that the policies that were being pursued in this connection were realistic, were based on a correct appreciation of the situation, and that they have yielded results. I would like to ask of those critics, who have been somewhat indiscreet in their criticism, as to how the private sector has suffered and how they have reached this targeted production if any impediments were placed in their way. After all, in a planned economy, we must act within certain limits, because otherwise imbalances flow. And that is not good for an overall economy when the resources are not enough to go round. Therefore, it is necessary that, whatever are the targets, they should be fixed after taking into consideration the various factors, the requirements and the capacity; and once those targets are fixed, then the actual realisation should be of the order which has been laid down in those targets. If both in the public sector and the private sector the targets have been achieved, then all that criticism of placing impediments and the like disappears, and the headlines which used to appear in certain sections of the press on that score have therefore no validity. I will not pursue that point further.

I would like to say as to what are the benefits that have accrued from the implementation of the targets that we laid for the NCDC. I would like to mention some of these. Firstly, new and virgin areas have been developed with remarkable speed, thus providing a nucleus for further expansion. Secondly, where the public interests made it essential for coal to be produced from certain mines, production was maintained regardless of the profit motive. The Giridih colliery is a relevant instance in that connection. Thirdly, pioneering work has been done in achieving a high degree of mechanisation. This has been applauded by various sections of the House. This is important in the context of the need to accelerate the rate of coal production in the country which cannot be achieved, unless we resort to the latest method of mechanisation. Fourthly, facilities have been

provided for the training of junior personnel. That is a factor the real importance of which is not fully appreciated. This is a pioneering effort in the coal industry as a whole. There were training institutions for training mining engineers and the like. But for training personnel of the actual worker and technician type, this was undertaken for the first time by the NCDC. At present five training schools are functioning under the NCDC, one each at Talcher, Kargali, Kurasia, Giridih and Bhurkunda. These schools will turn out about 832 trained personnel each year. We are examining our requirements for the future and if the necessity requires it, we will have no hesitation in increasing the training facilities. Fifthly, in spite of the criticism that might be levelled by my friends who are associated with the labour unions, I can claim that the employer-employee relations in the NCDC collieries have generally been good, and the amenities as compared to the other industrial establishments in the country have been reasonably good. Sixthly, I would like to point out that in spite of the fact that the NCDC had to break entirely new ground in different directions it has earned profits, thus adding to the revenues of Government, by way of interest on loans and in the form of various taxes paid by it. Actually, the running of the Giridih colliery has been at a loss, but the NCDC has, however, shown profit by making up that loss from gains elsewhere and has also been able to earn profits. So these are the various things which we have to keep in mind while assessing the performance of these public sector activities of the NCDC.

Shri A. C. Guha: What is the profit earned last year?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have already supplied copies of the Annual Report to hon. Members and he may chesk it up from that.

With this background now we can embark upon our Third Five Year Plan with a greater measure of confidence. More than one hon. Member has touched this point of target of the Third Five Year Plan. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao, Shri Braj Raj Singh, Shri A. C. Guha and other friends also have raised this point as to whether our targets for the Third Five Year Plan are adequate or not. I would like to take the House into confidence and share with it the processes that have been gone through while settling these targets. It has to be remembered that coal is a service article so far as other economic activity in the country is concerned. Therefore, for the overall plan, the economic development of the country, has to take shape, and in relation to that development, an assessment is made as to how much coal is required to feed that indusrial complex which emerges as a result of the new economic or new industrial activity, both in the public sector and the private sector. It is true that the exercise has to be backward and forward: what can the country perform in the sphere of economic and industrial development, what are our resources and, if the resources are limited, where should they go; and ultimately we have to take a view after taking into consideration in the overall requirements. It is not such a simple thing as to say categorically what target is adequate. For instance, I cannot refute my friend Shri T. B. Vittal Rao or Shri Braj Raj Singh or Shri A. C. Guha if they say that the target should be 120 million tons. I would be happy if the target is 120 million tons. But that will mean that a much bigger economic development and industrial development will be required to sustain that level of production and to effctively utilise it.

Therefore, the coal target has to be related to the overall effort that we want to put in the course of our Third Five Year Plan: to give a concrete shape to it, how much more coal would be required for our expanded railway programme; how much more coal would be required for our expanded steel industry; how much coal would be required for our new poper houses based on coal as the power for thermal

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stations; how much coal would be required by merchant cokeries; how much coal would be required by direct consuming concerns like the industries that have come up in different parts of the country. Therefore, all that is totalled up and it is broken up category-wise: how much metallurgical coal would be required; how much low ash content coal would be required for consumers like thermal power stations and the like. All these things are taken into consideration and a picture is evolved after exercising judgment about the requirements in the various sectors.

Therefore, it would be a very rash act for us to suggest that the coal target, in isolation, should be pushed up, unless we push up activity in the other directions. And the test, in this case, should be that the level of coal production should not come in the way of any other industrial development. That is the test. And so long as the target is fixed after taking that into consideration we can be reasonably safe about the target within which we work.

I would also like to re-emphasise what has been said by Members of the Government on other occasions, that these targets will be under constant review, almost from year to year, and if it is found that at any particular point some new requirements have developed either in the industrial field or in transport or in thermal stations, there will not be any hesitation to modulate the target both quantitatively as well as wih regard to the regions from which coal has to be raised. Therefore, we have to view the target in this perspective, and it will not be very wise for us to jump to conclusions, which taken in isolation, may sound as brave but in reality will not ultimately add to the economic growth in the organised manner that we are proposing to adopt in the course of our Third Five Year Plan.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any systematic effort made to popularise the use of coal for culinary purposes in the south, because the forests are being denuded?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The answer is that the briquettes which will come from the lignite at Neyveli would be mostly used for domestic purposes.

This allocation of the additional 37 million tons between the public and the private sectors also requires some explanation. As I mentioned a moment ago, the requirements have to be in terms of tonnage and also in terms of categories. It is very necessary to arrive at the figures as to how much metallurgical coal would be required, because that is necessary to keep our steel plants and our coke ovens going, and how much coal with a certain ash content is required, because quality control is required by certain priority users, and so on. Therefore, all these things have to be taken into consideration, and while formulating the additional production in the public and the private sectors, special care has been taken this time not just to allocate the additional production and then leave it to them to find out which are the collieries which are to yield that additional production.

This figure of 17 million tons, that has been allocated to the private sector on this occasion is a total of the additional production that we expect from certain specified collieries. I have often made it clear to the representatives of the private industry and I would like to reiterate that on the floor of the House, that in the course of the Third Five Year Plan, each of these private collieries which are participating in this expansion programme will itself have a charter for expansion that this is the additional production that is expected from each colliery, and it will not be just a sort of blanket total of 17 million tons from the private sector because that does not work well.

So, we constituted a working group, who had detailed discussions with the

private industry, and looked into their capacity to produce more, and we judged that on the touch-stone of our requirements as to whether the additional production coming from any colliery is required by us, whether it is of the requisite quality, and whether the ash content of the coal, from that area is likely to be of the type which would be useful and so on. After a great deal of pruning and detailed exercise, we came to the conclusion that 17 million tons is the total which can be produced in quality and in quantity which would suit our overall requirements. Therefore, that 17 million tons additional allocation to the private sector is not just a figure to be ploughed backward and then to be left to be achieved by the private sector in any manner that they like, but it really represents the total of the additional production which will come from specified collieries, and they will give to the Coal Controller a detailed programme of additional production from those collieries, and the achievement and the progress will be carefully watched, so that there is no failure. That would also ensure that any shortfall or likely shortfall in one sector would be made good by necessary adjustments with regard to the other.

Therefore, I think that the approach in the Third Five Year Plan both with regard to the actual target in terms of tonnage as also with regard to the target in terms of the various quality coals is a realistic one, and with careful watch, it is hoped that this will be realised successfully.

The House has expressed concern about the difficulties that have cropped up in certain parts of the country on account of the difficulties in the movement, and I would like to make the position clear on that issue. Unfortunately, in spite of my repeated assurances on the floor of the House and outside, some hon. Members still persist in asserting although the volume of that persistence has perceptibly decreased now—that there is some conflict between me and my colleague the Railway Minister. I would like to assure this House, as I have done on earlier occasions, that there is no difference of opinion, and in fact, there is complete co-ordination so far as movement of coal is concerned. And there are informal and formal consultations on that, and almost from day to day the situation is carefully watched at all levels, and whatever is the movement effort that the country can put in is geared up to meet the situation in which we find ourselves.

It will be profitable to assess the actual movement effort that is being put in now. The production of coal during the year 1956 was 40 million metric tons, and after allowing for the collieries' consumption, the total despatches amounted to 35.52 million metric tons. In that year, the total quantity of coal moved by means other than rail was 1.81 million metric tons, while the quantity moved by the railways was 33.71 million metric tons. During 1960, the total producton of coal was 52.61 million metric tons. Assuming colliery consumption at 2½ per cent, that is, 1.25 million metric tons in all, the despatchable coal amounted to about 51.26 million metric tons. Of these, 3.16 million metric tons were moved by means other than railways, partly by road and partly by sea. In this movement, the major part was by road. The railway moved as much as 43.17 million metric tons; thus, out of a total despatchable quantity of 51.26 million metric tons, 46.33 million metric tons were moved in all. This would indicate that there has been a steady progress in the movement of coal during the Second Plan period, and that by and large, the major needs of the consumers were met.

While this is the position in terms of tonnage moved, in terms of wagons also, there has been considerable improvement. In 1956, 3405 wagons moved from the Bengal-Bihar coalfields, out of which 1364 were in the above-Mughalsarai direction, and in

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the outlying fields, it was 860, and the total daily average allotment came to 4265. This was the position in the year 1956.

In the first quarter of 1961, the total number of loadings from the Bengal-Bihar coal-fileds has been 4693, out of which 1899 wagons moved above-Mughalsarai; and in addition to this, 1209 wagons moved from the outlying coal-fields, giving a daily average allotment of 5902 as compared to 4265 in 1956. That is a sizable increase.

Still, difficulties are being experienced in States like Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan, where movement above-Mughalsarai is involved. I do hope, however, that the situation will appreciably improve, because it is expected that in the month of July, the average movement above-Mughalsarai will be increased by another 200 wagons, and the diversion by sea will also release some capacity of movement above-Mughalsarai, because some of the coal even to the northern part of the Western Coast moves via this direction above-Mughalsarai. So when we can move by sea, some capacity will be released, and that will meet some of the requirements of the parts of our country which are served in this direction above-Mughalsarai.

I know that the movement position is not quite satisfactory, but this is a matter which cannot be solved in a day. But steps are being taken....

Shri Braj Raj Singh: It was not required to be solved in a day. They took well over five years to solve it, and still they have not solved it. That is the pity of it.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Quilon): How can he say that they took five years to solve it and still they have not solved it?

Sardar Swaran Singh: My point, therefore, is that the situation so far as movement is concerned is, except for the movement above-Mughalsarai, fairly satisfactory, and essential consumers like the steel plants, the industrial units, the railways and the power stations are receiving most of their requirements. The worst sufferers in this connection are the brick kilns because they enjoy a lower priority. If physically we cannot move more than a certain quantity in any particular direction, obviously there has to be some priority. I am fully conscious of the hardship that is being felt by them. It is hoped that when this situation of movement above-Mugalsarai improves, the supply position regarding those users will considerably improve.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Presently, what is the quantity of coal lying at the pit-heads to be moved?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That might be of some help to the hon. Member to point out that there are pit-head accumulations. There is no doubt about it, but the difficulty of movement is there. Therefore, there is no dispute on that issue that there are pit-head accumulations which cannot be moved at the moment, and I would be frank with the House in stating that if the movement situation does not improve, we cannot go on adding to these pit-head accumulations. Some method has to be thought of for meeting the situation. It may be that production may have to be kept at a somewhat lower level to clear the pit-head stocks and then stepped up so that there are no undue pit-head accumulations at the collieries.

Mr. Speaker: It was suggested by the hon. Railway Minister that dumps be created at various places.

Sardar Swaran Singh: You are perfectly correct. That is also one of the points receiving the attention of State Governments. The advantage of these dumps is that the points of unloading are minimised. Therefore, the turn-round of wagons improves.

Mr. Speaker: It is during the slack season.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, but even during the busy season, turnround of wagons improves because the whole rake is unloaded at one point and the wagons can be sent back more quickly. It is for this reason that this matter is engaging attention. Some progress has already been made as a result of mutual discussions between representatives of State Governments like Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): What is going to be dumped there?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Then the point has been raised that there should be a uniform price with regard to coal throughout the country. This point has come up for consideration more than once. We have given careful thought to it. There is already a certain element of subsidy when coal is moved over long distances. Government in the Ministry of Railways have adopted telescopic rates for coal freight. When coal is moved longer than a certain distance, no additional cost is incurred. Therefore, there is a certain element of subsidy for users who are situated at long distances.

But as I see the situation, there is no prospect in the near future of adopting a uniform price for coal throughout the country. There are various practical difficulties, not only administrative but also concerning matters of policy, because certain industries have come up historically, after taking into consideration various economic factors and it will not be an easy process to upset the economies of those industries by suddenly telling those who are nearer the coal fields that they will have to pay another Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 per ton for the coal that they consume. It is a matter which requires very careful consideration, and I would be quite frank in saying that there is little prospect in the near future of our considering a pool price, that is, the same price for all consumers throughout the coutnry.

Before I pass on to other items, I would like to say only one thing, that is, about the labour relations in the coal fields, both public and private. Some hon. Members have made some observations on this point. It will be wrong to say as one hon. Member pointed out that this is nobody's responsibility because the State Governments, the Labour Ministry and the administrative Ministry in charge are constantly taking stock of the position. In the coal industry, the targets that have actually been achieved could not have been possible but for the cooperation of the workers. Over the Plan period, generally the relations between the employers and employees have been good. There have been occasional difficultis in one or the other colliery and there may be points of dispute which can always be solved by mutual discussion, but over the Second Plan period, employer-employees relations in the coal industry have generally been good. If this were not so, it would not have been possible to achieve the targets.

Now, I may be permitted to pass on to steel. Before I come to the specific points that have been raised, I am sure the House would like to have some assessment of our Second Plan performance so that the points of criticism that have been raised may be judged in the background of the targets and achievements and the present progress in the establishment of additional capacity both in the public and private sector in steel making. These facts are known, but I would like to remind the hon. House that in Rourkela, orders for the coke ovens and blast furnaces and power plants were placed in April 1956; orders for other sections were placed in October 1956. In Bhilai, orders for the whole plant were placed in March 1956. In Durgapur, the contract for the plant was settled in October 1956. 1956 was the first year of the Second Plan. So the placing of orders started in the first year of the Second Plan period.

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Now, what has been the actual performance and what is the present stage of their development? Hon. Members will recall that last year on this occasion I said that the two works in the private sector had more or less completed their expansions and the progress of construction in the three new steel works, where production had just begun was going on satisfactorily. The expansions in the private sector were complete sometime ago and these works are picking up production. I am sure they will produce to their rated capacities soon. In the public sector, construction is nearing its end. To give the complete picture in Bhilai the plant, except for sintering alone, is virtually complete; in Rourkela, the iron making and steel making facilities and the major mills, that is, the blooming mill, the slabbing mill, the plate mill and the continuous strip mill are all ready and working. Only the cold rolling mills and the tinning mills are left. Durgapur is yet to complete on blast furnace. Two of its seven open hearth furnaces are yet to be finished. The sintering plant in Bhilai should be commissioned any day. The remaining facilities in Rourkela and Durgapur should be ready for commissioning by the middle of the year. Even though the production capacity of 6 million tons will have fully established, it may take some time for the three plants to produce to the rated capacity. I trust that by this time next year the skill of hundreds of technicians and workers, both foreign and Indian, would have given us greater production. That is the present state of their completion.

Now, Sir, I would like to give an assessment to the House with regard to the production that is taking place and how it has developed. In the course of the Second Five Year Plan we had undertaken to establish three new steel plants and expansion of two private sector steel plants. During the first two years of the Second Plan no addition to the production took place for obvious reasons because those were the stages at which either the expansion was being undertaken or the establishment of new steel plants was in the stage of construction and, therefore, no additional production could take place. During the year 1958-59, for the first time, there was an additional production and this amounted to 1,96,000 tons only as compared to the level of production which existed at the comencement of the Second Plan. During 1959-60, an additional production of 7,00,061 tons took place.

Shri C. D. Pande (Naini Tal): Of steel or iron?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Of steel. I am giving these figures of steel over and above the level of production that was there at the comencement of the Second Plan period. During the year 1960-61, an additional quantity of 13,43,000 tons was produced. This gives us an additional total production of about 2 lakh tons. This additional production represents a considerable avoidance of foreign exchange for reasons into which I need not go. This additional steel that was produced in the country has gone to users who badly required it. Therefore, if we had kept our economy at the level at which we have been able to keep, we would have been compelled to import these additional quantities of steel which were produced in the country during these periods. I have made some rough calculation that if the corresponding quantity of steel had to be imported, then the foreign exchange would have been about Rs. 140 crores for steel only.

In the case of pig iron, an additional production during this period resulted in the avoidance of foreign exchange of about Rs. 28 crores. Therefore even in the initial stages of production, we have been able to save the country foreign exchange burden of about Rs. 140 crores for steel and about Rs. 28 crores for pig iron. It is necessary to keep the order of these figures

in one's mind because some of the pessimists in our country who are not yet reconciled to the philosopohy of expanding steel production are prone to distort the picture and are trying always to highlight the difficulties and are not trying to appreciate the great impact that it has already started producing on the economy of our country.

I have made some calculation about the expected production during the year 1961-62. It is hoped that compared to the level of production which we had attained at the commencement of the Second Plan period, we will have about 2.3 million tons more. The total is likely to be about 3.5 million tons roughly. So, we will have an additional production of 2.3 million tons. And, this quantity along with the additional pig iron, as compared to the level of production at the commencement of the Second Plan period is likely to save the country about Rs. 150 crores in foreign exchange. So, even during the first year of the Third Plan when the production is picking up we will have substantial gain in the matter of foreign exchange for the developmental activities of the country.

Mr. Speaker: Rs. 150 crores in addition?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes; Rs. 150 crores, if we compare the level of production which we had at the commencement of the Second Plan period.

Before I reply to some of the points that have been raised I think I should explain very briefly our target for the Third Plan because I must give the House a picture—before I attempt to meet the points that have been raised by way of criticism. I would not take long on this.

The Third Five Year Plan target has been fixed after a great deal of consideration at an annual rate of production of 10 million tons. It has been explained on the floor of the House that this consists of the expansion in the three public sector plants and an additional plant at Bokaro. This is broadly the picture; and depending upon the results of the lignite at Neiveli, the possibility of a pig iron plant in the south.

Mr. Speaker: Is it at the end of the period? Will this be the target at the end of the period?

Sardar Swaran Singh: During the course of the Third Five Year Plan.

Mr. Speaker: Ten million tons will be at the end of the period.

Sardar Swaran Singh: In the course of the Third Five Year Plan our endeavour is to push ahead and create capacity which will yield 10 million tons annually.

This has been considered very carefully, regard being had to our capacity and the requirements of the country. Some people, in the beginning, used to say that there is no use of going ahead with the steel expansion programme because the requirements will not be of that order. But on the assessment made by the various users, consumers—and regard being had to the economic expansion—is considered that this is a realistic target. Therefore, now a stage has come when the country is reconciled to this target and those critics who used to say that this is a little too ambitious are quiet for some time, which is a happy sign and a realisation of the fact that the requirements are of that order.

This expansion of the existing 3 steel plants is a natural process because some of the capacities there are built-in capacities. The blooming mill, for instance, at Bhilai and at Durgapur is so designed that it will look after the expanded capacity also. Similarly, the slabbing mill which is the main mill at Rourkela has been so designed that it will be able to do the slabbing for the expanded capacity.

I am mentioning these points by way of illustration to show that the

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3 public sector steel plants have been so planned that expansion is not only a natural process, but, by expansion, the economics are bound to improve. Certain capacities which are not now being fully utilised on account of a lower level of production will be utilised and thus economics will very greatly improve. The expansion, therefore, of the public sector plants is good for a variety of reasons including practical, economic and the like.

I will now come to the new steel plant at Bokaro, about which some hon. Members expressed some doubts on the last occasion. When I came to the House last year, in the course of the Budget debate, Government had not taken a firm decision about locating this new plant at Bokaro. That decision has now been firmly taken and steps are being taken to push ahead with this project. So much about the targets and our arrangements for the Third Plan.

I would like to mention one other aspect. Shri Rajeshwar Patel, whom I do not find in his seat now—probably he does not want to hear my reply—in his speech raised some points.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): That is usual with him.

Sardar Swaran Singh: He wanted to make it as if we are not receptive to the suggestions that are made on the floor of this House. Coming from a friend for whom I have got some respect, I may say,.....

Some Hon. Members: Why some?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am prepared to amend it. I have great respect for him. I am sorry to say that he should have that grievance against me. Not only from him, but from all sections of the House, suggestions are most welcome; and the suggestions are very carefully considered. It is true that on the floor of the House I cannot reply to each individual observation that is made. But all these points are very carefully considered, not only by me, but by the various administrative officers.....

श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री : इस्पात कंट्रोलर के कार्यालय को कलकत्ते से हटाने के सम्बन्ध में आप क्या कहते हैं ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : अभी मैं ने खत्म नहीं किया । अभी तो मुझे बहुत सी बातें यहां पर कहनी हैं ।

He said as if we are proceeding in a very leisurely manner and this was an impression which somehow or other gripped his mind. He used it more than once. I won't contradict it more than once except to say that complacency is not the weakness of those who are entrusted with such a vital sector as steel. And, the Hindustan Steel authorities have been working very hard on working out the details of expansion of Durgapur, of Bhilai and of Rourkela. The product mix has been settled. I would like to give our programme with regard to the further steps that we propose to take.

The project reports for the expansions are in hand. External assistance has been assured for the 3 expansions, that is, at Bhilai, Rourkela and at Durgapur. The Hindustan Steel is working to the target of placing orders for the plant by the end of the year. If only this is done, expansions would yield some production during the Third Plan period. Therefore, I would say, it was unkind on his part to say that we are proceeding in a leisurely manner in this respect.

I can understand his anxiety with regard to Bokaro. Belonging as he does to the State of Bihar in which Bokaro is going to be located, apparently, he wanted to say something about Bokaro. On that also we have already got the preliminary project

report which is a good one and we are going to have a detailed project report. Apart from that, some work physically has also started.

We are making some arrangement with regard to the township. The site is actually being surveyed, not just by looks but by bores etc. so that we know what is going to be the condition of the site. The arrangements for electricity and water etc., all these things are receiving attention and are being given very careful consideration. Therefore, I would say that his general observation was unjustified.

Now, I would like to refer to some of the points that have been raised. More than one hon. Member has—including my hon. friends Shri Morarka and Shri Rajeshwar Patel and one or two others—raised the question about increase in the cost of the steel plants. It is a very important matter. I have tried to explain this on the earlier occasions, but now that we are at the end of the second Plan period, let us examine as to what is the correct state of affairs. Let us agree on facts before we build up arguments and try to say in a sweeping manner that the original estimate, as has been mentioned by some hon. Members, of Rs. 300 crores has been pushed up to Rs. 600 crores. That is broadly the sort of criticism that was made. It is, therefore, very necessary for us to see the position as it is. We should first be clear as to what is the quantum of increase and then we can go into the question as to whether these increases are justified or not. I think that even on the factual thing, much lack of information persists on the part of some hon. Members. It is therefore necessary for us to have a good look at the facts to see as to what is the correct state of affairs.

I would like to recall that the figures for the first time were given on the floor of the House by my predecessor, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, in December, 1956. These figures were repeated by me in 1957 at the time when the budget discussion took place. So, those figures should be regarded as the figures which were given on the floor of the House. I would like to refresh the memory of the House and invite its attention to the discussion on the budget demands in which I made a statement on the 13th August, 1957 repeating exactly the figures which had been given by my predecessor. At that time, I said that the cost of Rourkela would be Rs. 170 crores, of Bhilai, Rs. 131 crores and of Durgapur, Rs. 138 crores. In that very statement I made it absolutely clear that this does not include some items. I said that those figures did not include the following items. What were those items? Those items were, cost of townships, ore mining and quarries, land, prospecting and designing, development of sources of water-supply, power supply facilities up to the perimeter of the plant, the personnel required for operating including the cost of training, railway works outside the perimeter of the plant and a number of other items.

An Hon. Member: What were those items?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I will come to that. After I finish, if there is any further point to be cleared, I am at the disposal of hon. Members. So, let us be clear about the facts before we build up arguments. No one can say that they will not cost anything—this formidable list in which townships, ore mining, quarries, prospecting, etc., are mentioned. We were anxious that we should take the House into confidence at the earliest opportunity. Although detailed figures had not been worked out with regard to these other items, we had the figures with regard to the cost of the plant as such, and gave these figures. But, at the same time, it was mentioned that these estimates did not include a number of items which were actually mentioned by me. As soon as the picture was clear as to what was going to be the total expenditure on these other items, a

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detailed statement was made on the floor of the House. This was in answer to a question here on the 13th August, 1958. Then it was mentioned that the cost of the other items, which were mentioned earlier qualitatively but about which the actual figures had not been given, will be Rs. 120 crores.

There are two ways of looking at it. A critic will say that the earlier figure has been pushed up by Rs. 120 crores. But the obvious course, the irresistible course and the only course is that these items have to be enumerated. They were not to come by way of charity: a township costing about Rs. 15 crores cannot be put up without expenditure; an ore mine which costs about Rs. 10 crores will not be there just for the asking. Therefore, these items had to be added to that. We cannot say that there was an increase on the original estimate. That was really the first time the estimates were given.

Mr. Speaker: I thought that the point was, whether an estimate could not have been prepared even for those items.

Sardar Swaran Singh: If we had prepared, we could have given it at that time. Either, at that time, I say, "I do not give any estimate at the moment; the estimate for the plant has been worked out; the estimate for others has not been worked out", or, I do not say it. Hon. Members, or you, Sir, may even say, "Give the figure for that part which is worked out. State the parts for which the estimate is not worked out. You can give the figures later". I think the Government did the wise thing in giving the figures with regard to the part about which estimates had been prepared, and enumerating the others stating that the estimates for those items were not yet there but that these figures did not include those items. You may say that this is not a very elegant way of presentation, but this is not a matter on which I can be hauled up.

16 hrs.

Mr. Speaker: No, no. There is no question of hauling up. The question is, if a private person is to undertake a factory.....

Sardar Swaran Singh: Private persons will not put up a township for the factory. That is the great difference between the public sector and the private sector. Anyhow, I do not want to lose myself in that controvery between the public sector and the private sector, and if it satisfies this House or if it satisfies you Sir, I do not want to indulge in comparisons. But I would like to recall that on the last occasion, I gave the figures to show that even in the private sector, the estimate both with regard to the Tata's expansion schemes and the Indian Iron and Steel Company's expansion schemes, when compared to their original estimates, went up by a percentage which was higher than the percentage in our public sector plants. But I do not want to take shelter behind their shortcomings or failures. The point which I am trying to hammer is that it will be wrong for any person to say that the original assessment has been increased. Rs. 120 crores is the additional expenditure on the various items which were enumerated but the actual expenditure for which was not estimated earlier. If I give that figure later, then you can say, "I should have estimated their cost a little earlier or I could have withheld the information with regard to that one part and could have given the whole thing later". But certainly you cannot say that there is any upward revision. The sum of Rs. 120 crores were allocated for these various plants. If we add these figures given in the same statement to those which were earlier given, then, the figure that works out is this: Rourkela, Rs. 214 crores: Bhilai, Rs. 179 crores; Durgapur, Rs. 167 crores. My contention is that these are the only figures that had been given with regard to these estimates and to quote any other figures is distortion of facts and

not a fair presentation of the state of affairs. Factually, we should be quite clear, and thereafter we can build arguments. We can differ on judgment but we should not differ on facts. From this narration of the sequence of facts, these are the figures. I admit that there has been an increase over the figures given four years ago, but what is the increase? In the report of the Hindustan Steel Limited, a copy of which I have already placed on the Table of the House, they have given the estimates as a result of the actual expenditure for Rourkela and Bhilai and those are by and large correct. Excluding escalations, the figure for Rourkela is Rs. 221 crores as against Rs. 214 crores and the figure for Bhilai is Rs. 197 crores as against Rs. 179 crores.

With regard to Durgapur, we have received the report from HSL only two or three days ago and we are scrutinising it. But I should like to share that information also with the House. Their latest assessment is, it is likely to be of the order of Rs. 186 crores.

The total estimate was Rs. 560 crores. My contention is that this was the only figure that had been given and no other figure should be cited. It is incorrect, therefore, to harp on something which we should close now. According to the latest estimates, the total is about Rs. 605 crores excluding escalation. I am not going into the figures, you can look into that with greater care, but the increase in percentage is of the order of about 7 or 8 per cent. I am not trying to defend the position that the increase is not there. This increase is there. We can examine, and I am sure at an appropriate level these things will be examined, as to whether even this increase of 7 or 8 per cent is or is not justified, and what are the various heads under which it has taken place. In that context, the suggestions that had been made by Shri Morarka and other friends will be kept in mind and HSL will scrutinise whether this increase in expenditure was justified or was not justified.

But the important point we have to keep in mind is the quantum of that increase, because it was made out here as if it has increased by 100 per cent. So, let us not disagree on figures. For instance, it would have assumed a different importance for my education if they had presented these figures in this form and put forward an argument later on that even this increase of 7 or 8 per cent is not justified for this or that reason. That will have surely a greater impact on me and on those who are looking after the projects. But if in a very loose manner, we present those figures in a form which is not there, then unfortunately the great good that should follow from an analysis of this type is lost and we are left only with arguments and counter-arguments; the real substance eludes us and the exercise becomes fruitless.

I would again reiterate that it is wrong to say that the estimate has been revised from time to time. These figures were given by my predecessor in 1956, repeated by me in 1957 and spelt out by giving the cost of the various items in reply to a question here in 1958. The first time there is an alteration from those figures is as a result of actual expenditure given for the first time in the report of HSL. It is wrong to say that there has been constant revision and no one looked into it. That is an argument which is absolutely fallacious and not justified at all.

Shri Basappa: The Estimates Committee have discussed about Rourkela in their report....

Sardar Swaran Singh: I will come to that. I think year before last I had to say quite a bit about the observations made in the Estimates Committee report. You have yourself, Mr. Speaker, according to the rule, laid down a certain procedure as to the manner in which points that

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are mentioned in the Estimates Committee report are to be dealt with. The Ministry and the representatives of plants try to convince the Estimates Committee on the various points that are raised and ultimately Government make a statement either accepting those points or rejecting them. That analysis is very useful. Some of the points that had been shown might explain some of the increases. I am not going into details of what was recommended by the Estimates Committee, because that, I venture to say, is a little old story now. We have advanced several years after that. Let us look to the present. By all means, that exchange of information between the Ministry and the Estimates Committee goes on continuously and the Ministry and HSL are benefited by what is contained there. It is not my intention to reply point by point to the points that were raised by the Estimates Committee, because that is a separate procedure, which I think is a good procedure in which we exchange information with them, rather than my refuting in a sudden manner all that is contained there. It is not my intention to be on the wrong side of the Estimates Committee.

Mr. Speaker: The original estimates did not include the various items like housing which the hon. Minister referred to. Were any estimates prepared at all for them or they went on spending money?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is not like that; estimates were prepared.

Mr. Speaker: Before the expenditure was incurred, were estimates prepared for those other items?

Sardar Swaran Singh: They were prepared, but not precisely. It was necessary to go ahead with the execution of the work. There are two ways of starting a township, for instance. One is, we wait till we calculate the last penny, as to what is going to be the cost of putting up the roads, drinking water, electricity, putting up this drain or that sewage, so many houses of this size or that size; we spell out everything, spend two years and work out the estimates to the last penny and it comes for some sort of sanction here. That sanction goes back and then the work starts. That is the old departmental way, which we have inherited from the Britishers, when they were interested more in stopping work than in doing work. The other way is, we take a decision that a township is to be constructed, go ahead with the roads in anticipation of final sanction of each penny, start the work on the sewage, make arrangements for electricity, water, etc., and in the meantime, we go on preparing the estimates. Some work is executed even in anticipation of the final sanction. Even before a final letter of sanction from Government issues, it is better to start incurring some expenditure; it has been pointed out by hon. Members more than once that delay otherwise will be more costly as compared to some possible remote saving that might be made by cutting out, for instance, the width of a road from 12 feet to 10 feet or whether a pole should be of cement concrete or steel. Those are details.

I would venture to submit that whereas financial control has to be there and it should be exercised with the greatest rigour, the actual sequence and juxtapositson has to be judged in the light of the size of these projects and also in the light of the nature of activity. Take, for instance, the great activity which my colleage, Shri K. D. Malaviya, is undertaking in the matter of drilling an oil well. If drilling an oil well is to await a complete estimate of the expenditure that is likely to be incurred and the depth that has to be reached, I think we will not be able to do much work. Actually, the drill may not go below a certain depth at all or it may have go much deeper.

Mr. Speaker: The houses are on the surface; not underground.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Part of the house is also underground. Sir, I am the last man to contradict you. It is a fact that in certain parts of the township additional expenditure had to be incurred because of indifferent conditions of soil where later on piling and all other things had to be undertaken. There are two ways of looking at it. I think those who take the responsibility of going ahead with the work in anticipation of these formal sanctions should be encouraged rather than be discouraged.

Now, I will put another aspect before you, because in this matter of estimates on the last occasion also I said something and I do not want to repeat myself. This type of insistence can yield two results. One is that it is easy for any administrative officer to cover himself and wait with his legs crossed saying that he will not move a sod of earth unless complete sanction of the entire estimate is given, unless complete sanction of each item is given he will not proceed. That will be, I think a timid administrative officer who does not go ahead and does not take responsibility.

The other thing that is likely to happen is that this too much insistence on estimates not being exceeded in any case is likely to result, howsoever carefully you might try to safeguard it, in liberal estimates. For instance, for any administrative officer it is very easy from the very beginning to say that a particular project is likely to cost not Rs. 100 crores but Rs. 120 crores. Then he will come and say that he has made a saving of Rs. 5 crores because his expenditure was only Rs. 115 crores.

Whereas, Sir, I am the last person to suggest that we should not insist on estimates, I think we should be quite clear in our mind. It is a very easy argument for anybody to say that so much was the estimate, so much was the expenditure and therefore you must haul up somebody. But for the other people the line of absolute protection would be to think why every time an estimate is framed they should be hauled up by the Estimates Committee and there should be criticism in the House; and they are likely to be a little more liberal in framing the estimates and frame the estimates in such a manner that they do not exceed them in any case. Then they can show some saving. We should not permit the creation of that atmosphere, and it is the endeavour of Government not to permit the creation of that type of atmosphere. Our estimates are realistic, and I should personally be happy if the estimates are a little tight, because that is a constant reminder to the administrator to remain within those estimates. So whenever that increases, that increase itself has to be within certain limits, and the rigour of scrutiny then is a very good check which I greatly value. The other thing to my mind appears to be not in the overall national interests, and I venture to suggest that let us not overstretch that point.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Sir, the hon. Minister has raised one important point. So far as the estimates are concerned, which are placed before the House, according to the hon. Minister they should not be adhered to or strictly followed.

Sardar Swaran Singh: That was not my suggestion.

Mr. Speaker: He does not say so.

Shri Prabhat Kar: That is how he has been arguing.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am sorry, Sir, there must be something wrong in my way of argument if I have conveyed that impression. That is not my suggestion. I am only submitting that the policy of the Government is that estimates should be realistic.

Mr. Speaker: All that he says is, if you insist upon not exceeding the estimates by one percent or even half a per cent then they will even in advance add ten per cent more in their estimates and then come and say that they have made so much of savings. The hon. Minister says that instead of doing so let the estimates be as strict as possible with a chance of increasing the amounts. Then they will come to House for voting on the additional Demands. Then they will honestly come and say that they have spent something more.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I would like to assure you, Sir and through you the House, that we will not permit our officers to do that type of liberal estimation and we will continue to be rigorous in the matter of scruitny. We will try to pin them down and will call them to exp'ain if there are any additional expenditure. I do not grudge the criticism, because if the custodians of public finances have the right to point out that there are excesses, they should rightly be explained and an explanation is due either to the Estimates Committee or the Public Accounts Committee or even the House.

Mr. Speaker: In either case the margin ought not to be excessive. If it is a case of over estimation it ought not to be too much where the estimate is for Rs. 200 crores and the actual expenditure has been only Rs. 100 crores. If it is a case of strict estimates, then they ought not to be exceeded by more than a small percentage. All that the House says is that the estimates should not be unreasonable.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Therefore, I think the present practice of the administrative machinery exercising a rigorous check to keep the estimates as stringent as possible and then calling upon those who are in charge of execu'ion to explain any increase beyond those estimates appears to be, in my humble judgment, a better way of exercising control.

Mr. Speaker: All that they want is an explanation.

Sardar Swaran Singh: The increases, as I have pointed out, are of the order of 7 per cent or 8 per cent. They are not so excessive. Still they require an explanation and that explanation will be coming.

Mr. Speaker: 7 per cent of Rs. 700 is only Rs. 49, but 7 per cent of Rs. 700 crores is Rs. 49 crores.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Sir, we have to have a big heart while we are dea'ing with bigger figures.

Now, Sir, having said so much about the estimates I would like to say that several other points of local interest have been said and I will be failing in my duty if I were not to touch them briefly.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Morarka read out some extracts from newspapers both in England and in Germany stating that the Rourkela plant and the other plant were not in good working condition, they were sinking, they will collapse, they are not sufficiently strong and so on.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Sir, I have got the greatest admiration for the Press whether it is in our country or in other countries, but if governmental decisions are to be based upon some Press report in some foreign newspapers and if we are to be made responsible for something that is said in a foreign Press I am sorry it will be very difficult for us. I will give an example.

Mr. Speaker: I can only say that personally I am not carried away by what is said in the Press. But I would like to hear from the hon. Minister that it is not true.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Sometimes it is a little irritating to contradict what appears in a foreign Press. You will excuse me, Sir, if I give only one example. What is appearing today in China as having been quoted from the Indian Press is that the whole of India—if you read the Chinese papers you will see—is up in arms against our policy and the like. Are we to form our judgment from that? What I mean to say is, in many countries things appear in newspapers from one angle or the other. About what has appeared in the German Press, I do not know the particular thing that was in his mind, in Germany there is a newspaper—I think *Spiegal* is the name—which is a sort of fairly sensational newspaper.

Shri C. D. Pande: Like our *Blitz* here.

Mr. Speaker: We are not interested in all that—I am speaking for the House and for myself also. Something has been said in the papers. Something bad has been said. We have spent Rs. 600 crores over this. If there is any truth in what has appeared, the hon. Minister should say that to that extent it is true or it is wholly untrue. That is what we want. We do not want to know about the quality of the paper—let that paper be a trash.

Sardar Swaran Singh: My difficulty is, if somebody says something based on some facts.....

Mr. Speaker: We want to know whether those facts are true or not.

Sardar Swaran Singh: The Government should not be called upon to contradict what appears in the newspapers.

Mr. Speaker: Nobody asks.

Sardar Swaran Singh: My contention is that the premise upon which that news item has appeared is not worthy of contradiction at a responsible level. There is no allegation from any quarter. If, for instance, Shri Morarka were to say that he was not satisfied about the foundations there I will be called upon to contradict it.

Mr. Speaker: How does be know?

Sardar Swaran Singh: If he says that a German newspaper says so, I do not think we should be called upon to contradict it, because there is no basis for that.

Mr. Speaker: I am not satisfied. I would request the hon. Minister to explain to the House this one point. He refers to a committee report which has not been placed on the Table of the House and which is available there. A German firm has undertaken it. So, the German people will be interested to cover it up. If a British firm has undertaken it, the British people will be interested in covering it up, unless there are persons who are competing with them. Now, certain allegations have been made. What is the meaning in asking Shri Morarka to dive and find out whether the trenches have been dug properly? Therefore, the hon. Minister owes a duty to this House to say, from whichever quarter it has come, it is not so. Instead of acting merely on the advice of a German firm, the Minister must come and tell us what exactly is the position. Suppose some other person or newspaper makes an allegation that an extraordinarily big amount has been spent. He owes a duty to this House to tell us "Sir, this is not right" or "that is not right", instead of merely accusing others and saying Shri Morarka has not understood that, Shri Morarka is not an engineer.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I did not want to create that impression. It was far from my mind to criticise any hon. Member.

Mr. Speaker: I may bring to his notice that I have been sitting here and observing things. From time to time, questions are put about Rourkela and Durgapur. In Durgapur, whereas 20 ft. piles were necessary, 10 ft. piles alone were put up. Subsequently, they had to buttress them. In Rourkela some machine went out of order—I think it was the blast furnace—and because of that, though the plant was expected to produce a certain quantity it did not produce that much. It is not something which has arisen today. From time to time, it has been coming up. Ultimately, when the budget is presented to this House, even then the hon. Minister does not give an explanation and says that some trash newspaper in England or Germany published that news item. I am really surprised.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): It is remarkable, Sir, how you remember all these things.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am grateful to you, Sir, for reminding me about three things. Now, with regard to the defective piling at Durgapur....

Mr Speaker: Leave that alone. What about the point that Shri Morarka mentions? These are old things. The hon. Minister ought not to feel that I want to know something about the piles and other things. Shri Morarka has brought out something new. I want an explanation regarding this, and not those old things.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I would venture to reply to that also. How can I afford not to dispel any fear or any misgiving which might have arisen in the mind of the Chair?

Mr Speaker: I have no more illusions.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Two points about which you were pleased to remark were gone into on the floor of this House. With regard to the defective piles at Durgapur, I made a detailed statement. I thought at that time that I had convinced the House that the defect was there, they were asked to rectify it and the firm was made to give a guarantee of performance.

With regard to the various difficulties at Rourkela, I have always taken the House into confidence and I have reported to the House if there have been any difficulties. Regarding short-fall in production, it has been given by me and it has been given in the report of the Ministry. And it is not for me or for anybody else to cover up any of the defects. There is no point in doing that because, in that case, they do not get rectified. That is not my attitude at all.

I was only venturing to suggest this. Just as in our country, which has a free press, everything that we do can be criticised, and should be criticised, similarly, it will perhaps not be fair for us to assume that because a British firm is doing some work here, therefore, every British newspaper is interested in covering that up. Similarly, though this firm may be doing this work, there may be critics of this firm and their performance in Germany. Therefore, we should not draw our conclusions if any such thing appears. It cautions us. We derive benefit from that and we look at our work as to what is the point of view, whether that is correct or not. And if there is something wrong or something incorrect then remedial action is taken. And if any incorrectness is found, then it is brought up here and brought to the notice of the House. I would venture to suggest to the House that, if any adverse comments appear, particularly in the foreign press, and on the basis of that we do not come to report, then the normal presumption should be that those comments are incorrect. If a report is adverse to us, we examine that and if there is anything wrong, we can come and say so. I know hon. Members are very vigilant. Some hon. Member will ask a question or if it is serious, it is my duty also to inform the House. Otherwise, it is not possible to keep pace with all that that appears in all parts of the world.

Now coming to the defects that might have been pointed out, even the remarks that were made by Shri Morarka yesterday about what appeared in—I thought that I should not go into those details, but if you want I will certainly give my comments....

Mr. Speaker: I leave it to the hon. Minister. When Shri Morarka was saying that I thought it had created an impression in the minds of hon. Members. Of course, we are all lawyers and are not carried away merely by the plaint. We also look to the written statement. But anyhow until the written statement comes in the plaint has to be believed. Therefore, as Shri Morarka made a statement, we wanted to know what the truth about this was.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Shri Morarka made a reference to something that appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*. He said that there is some Colombo Plan mission and that the mission reported that there is guerilla warfare going on. That was the expression. It was a catchy phrase and perhaps it might have caught the imagination of some hon. Members because it was repeated. The leader of this mission had a detailed talk with me after he went round and had looked into these things. He made some suggestions which are being examined. Some of those suggestions have actuallly been implemented. It was a team which was brought out at our request so that they may examine the working. They were expected to make suggestions if there were any suggestions for improvement. I have not seen what appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*, but I refuse to believe that what appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* could be an authorised version. It may be some press leak or something like that. I would like to assure you that neither in his report nor in the course of his talks did he use any such expression. It will, therefore, be not correct to draw any adverse inference from what might have appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*. I do not think I have seen any such thing in the *Daily Telegraph*. At any rate, the leader of the team had a fairly detailed discussion with me and he never used any such expression which was referred to by the hon. Member.

Then he mentioned something about what appeared in the German press. It is true that there is some self-criticism in the German press also. To a certain measure I welcome it because if, for instance, an Indian firm is functioning abroad and is unable to satisfy the consumers there or the people for whom it is working and there is some criticism here, that will be some corrective. So to the extent that there is self-criticism in German quarters themselves I welcome that. It is not for me to contradict everything that appears there because that itself will be some pressure on them. We know what our commitments are with regard to Germany. We have got our ways of judging their performance, whether the things that they have supplied are in accordance with the specifications and whether the guaranteed performance would be there or not. Those are contractual matters which will be gone into by Hindustan Steel and they will not accept any part of the plant unless the guaranteed performance is actually made by that particular plant in accordance with the terms of the guarantee. Therefore I would humbly submit that in these matters where the contractual obligations between the supplier and the recipient, that is, Hindustan Steel, are involved, it will not perhaps be fair for me to go into minute details on each contract. But broadly I can say that there have been more difficulties in Rourkela as compared to the other plants. That is mentioned in the report of HSL themselves. I was happy to note when Member after Member quoted something by way of criticism from HSL's Annual Report. That only demonstrates that the report is a fair one, because even those items which do not on the face of it are favourable to them are given, so that the country may know what is the correct state of affairs and what are the correctives to

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be undertaken by them. It should be viewed in that perspective. My only grievance is that whereas the points which strike hon. Members as of a critical nature or unsatisfactory character are only read out from that report, the next few lines, or a few lines before, where those points are attempted to be explained are glossed over and the whole thing is presented in a form in which I am called upon to give my explanation. In a matter like that, the report has to be read as a whole, and in fairness, if any particular sentence or any particular paragraph is quoted, other relevant parts should also be mentioned, if not completely or *in extenso*, at least briefly, so that we can judge as to whether the explanation given by them is adequate, and proper or not. That I think will be the correct way of dealing with what is contained there.

Now, Sir, hon. Members from the South, Shri Mohammad Imam from Mysore, Shri Subramanyam and Shri Thanu Pillai, have raised three things and I would like to say something about all the three. One was about Singareni. Shri Vittal Rao also said something about it. The additional production from Singareni is 3 million tons and that has been arrived at after consultation with Singareni. I agree that whether it is Singareni or outlying coal-fields in Central India, if we can step up production from those areas, movement to distant areas would be less and from that angle we can examine as to whether it is possible to step up production in any of those areas. These figures have been arrived at after taking into consideration their capacity for performance and they have been arrived at in a realistic manner.

Connected with lignite was the suggestion made by more than one hon. Member of exploring the possibility of locating a pig iron plant or steel plant in the South. I made that position clear on occasions more than one and I do not want to take the time of the House on this again. I have said—and I would like to repeat—that depending upon the tests of Neyveli lignite there is a possibility of locating a smelting plant, that is, a pig iron plant in the South. Besides that there is a request from Andhra Pradesh also. That also is being examined and if the iron ore that is available there is of proper quality and Singareni coal can be used in some form or other, then, surely, I for one, would he happy if we could have a large number of these smaller plants, particularly for producing pig iron in other regions.

Although our iron ore resources are large, still our metallurgical coal is not located all over the country and there is a limit to the establishment of large integrated steel plants. But still, whatever are the local resources available, if they can be utilised without moving metallurgical coal from Bengal-Bihar area, that is the direction in which we should move. Already a small plant producing pig iron is there in the South—I think in Coimbatore. One we have sanctioned in Chanda, which is again an area in Maharashtra, away from the main Bengal-Bihar belt.

Similarly, my hon. friend from Mahendragarh district Shri Ram Krishan Gupta, put forward the case of Mahendragarh. There also some interest has been shown, and iron ore is available there. But, again, the question of coal is there. The possibility of smelting that by moving some nut coke from Bhilai or some other part is also a proposition which can be examined. So it is for the *entrepreneurs* to put forward schemes, and if those schemes are attractive and feasible economically as well as from the technical angle, we would like to see the dispersal of these comparatively smaller-size plants all over the country. These are called small-scale plants rather relatively. But even a one-lakh ton capacity pig iron plant costs something of the order of six or

seven crores of rupees—Sir, I am giving the order of the figure rather than a firm figure. So, compared to the big giant-steel plants they may be small, but they are fairly large projects. For instance, Bhadravati, about which hon. Members from Mysore take a legitimate pride, has been producing only 30,000 to 35,000 tons a year. So a one-lakh ton capacity pig iron plant is a sizable plant, and if there are a large number of these plants in different parts of the country it will result in the utilisation of local resources and also in a dispersal of industry, which is one of the objectives which we have before us. About Bhadravati a point was raised....

Shri Shivananjappa (Mandaya): What progress has been made about Bhdravati expansion?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Already the arrangements have been finalised by the management there to push the capacity to one lakh tons. The Government of India would be glad to encourage Bhadravati to undertake the production of special steels or alloy steels. That was one of the points urged by some hon. Members. We have made an assessment and also said here that besides the public sector plant for stainless steel, special steel, tool steel and alloy steel which is going to be established in Durgapur, there can be capacity for special steels and alloys in other parts of the country, and Bhadravati certainly will be encouraged to have capacity for special steels or alloy steels. I am in touch with Bhadravati and I have asked them to make concrete proposals, and on receipt of the proposals it is our intention to encourage them to go ahead with the production of special steels.

Now, Sir, my hon. friend Shri Prakash Vir Shastri would be annoyed with me if I do not say something about steel controls, because his entire speech was about the working of the Office of the Iron and Steel Controller. This would have been a very relevant speech probably about a couple of years ago when there was general short supply. Most of the points he has urged relate either to import licences or planning and the like. I am confident that so far as the supply position is concerned, India has definitely turned the corner, and the time of scarcity is in the past except for certain items like the thinner gauge sheets or wires. With regard to the rest our policy is generally of liberalisation and loosening of most of the controls. There may be genuine difficulties, which he has pointed out, in matters of detail, and the proper forum for that is somewhere else. For this purpose we have constituted two committees to look into these detailed workings. We have got the Iron and Steel Advisory Committee on which the consumers, traders and the producers are all represented. All these points are gone into there. And, as a Sub-Committee of that, there is another committee to look into these trade matters, which has been constituted with the Steel Controller as the Chairman, and these various traders, importers and so on are all members of that committee, and they go into these points from time to time. I will pass on these comments.....

श्री विभूति मिश्र (बगहा) : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को मालूम है कि हिन्दुस्तान के किसी जिले में किसानों के लिये और मकान बनाने के लिये लोहा नहीं मिलता है? मैं ने बहुत करेस्पांडेंस की, लेकिन उसके बावजूद नहीं मिलता है।

Sardar Swaran Singh: I was saying that I will pass on his comments to the Iron and Steel Controller, and I am sure that the various detailed things will be gone into, and if there are any genuine difficulties that the traders might feel, they will be gone into.

Something has been said about the establishment of re-rolling mills also. I had announced a policy that smaller re-rolling mills are encouraged now even without a licence. We are also investigating if somewhat larger rolling mills require to be established in

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

certain parts where the present steel rolling capacity is not sufficient; and if, as a result thereof, we find that some new re-rolling mills have to be sanctioned, we shall not hesitate to do that, because that is in consonance with our general policy.

Shri M. B. Thakore: There is no re-rolling mill in Gujarat? Would the hon. Minister consider the case of Gujarat in this regard?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There are re-rolling mills in Gujarat. Baroda is in Gujarat; Bhavanagar is in Gujarat; the hon. Member can go and check up, and he will find that there are already re-rolling mills in these areas. But I am not shutting out the examination of any fresh proposal. As I said, the capacity in the country is being examined, and if there are under-served areas, we shall naturally consider the question of sanctioning new re-rolling mills in those areas.

श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री : मैंने इस्पात कंट्रोलर के कार्य के सम्बन्ध में दो आपत्तियां उठाई थीं जिनके बारे में मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं। एक तो यह कि इस्पात के पदार्थों से भरा हुआ पूरा जहाज इस देश में आया, जो कि अनआथराइज्ड तरीके से आया। इस्पात कंट्रोलर के होते हुए उसे कैसे आथराइज किया गया? दूसरी चीज यह कि मैंने एक ऐसी फर्म की चर्चा की थी जिसने २ या ३ लाख रु० से अपना कारोबार शुरू किया और दो साल के अन्दर उसने १४ करोड़ रु० का कारोबार किया। इसके सम्बन्ध में भी मैं चाहता हूं कि मुझे कुछ जानकारी दी जाये।

Sardar Swaran Singh: The point that has been mentioned namely that a full shipload containing unauthorised material was smuggled into the country, I think, is much too big a thing for anybody to swallow. I can imagine smuggling of things like watches or gold, but I refuse to believe that a whole shipload could be smuggled into the country, and it could remain undetected. Anyhow, because the hon. Member has made a statement on the floor of the House, I shall certainly look into it, and if I find that if any such irregularity has taken place, I shall certainly take appropriate action on that.

The second point that has been mentioned is in relation to certain observations that have been made in the Public Accounts Committee's reports. I would like to examine that with a little greater care before I make a final statement. I am in a somewhat embarrassing position, because I was Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, when that said firm was supposed to have been blacklisted, and it was during that period that he has said that orders were placed on that firm, notwithstanding the order of blacklisting. That relates to the year 1956 or round about that period. As soon as the Public Accounts Committee's report came, I looked into that case itself, and I would like to give the information as I have been able to gather so far.

The gravamen of the charge in that is that orders were placed on a sister firm, although the other parent firms had been blacklisted. The sister firm upon which the orders were placed was not blacklisted; and because a number of firms belonging to that group had been blacklisted and that particular sister firm was not blacklisted, therefore, the Iron and Steel Controller cannot be said to have acted unjustifiably, if he did not stop dealings with that firm.

The second part of that charge is that certain orders were placed notwithstanding a subsequent order blacklisting even that sister firm. Now, that is a matter which requires looking into. But, the preliminary look that I had indicates that there are ten such cases there mentioned even in the Public Accounts Committee's report, where orders were placed even after the blacklisting order was communicated to the Iron and Steel Controller. I find that in seven out of these ten orders, the letter of acceptance of the

tender had already been issued. Now, it does not require much argument that if there is an offer, and a letter accepting that offer has already been issued, then, whatever may be the formalities that are required to be completed later, the acceptance of that offer is complete, as soon as the Iron and Steel Controller issues a letter accepting that offer. Therefore, the subsequent completion of this was only the completion of a formality.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar (Pudukottai): How was that firm issued the tender in the first instance when it was blacklisted?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No tender had been issued after it was blacklisted. So that is not correct.

Mr. Speaker: No body is blacklisted overnight. The proceedings may have been pending. When proceedings are pending, is it contended that he is the only individual out of all the people who ought to be issued the tender? In a trice, nobody is blacklisted. Proceedings start and go on for a long time. In between, tenders are given.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I would like to say that the contract is not terminated as soon as proceedings start.

Mr. Speaker: There is a suspicion.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Perhaps it will not be correct to judge merely on suspicion. I would take the House into confidence and say this that these blacklisting orders are not even formally communicated to the firm concerned, because blacklisting, for one thing, is an expression which, though current, has not got any special connotation or legal validity as such. The position really is that we cease to deal with that particular firm. That is the direction issued to the administrative officer who may have to have dealings with that firm, that he should not deal with it.

These letters were issued by the Iron and Steel Controller. Now if the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry, of which I happened to be in charge at that time, were considering some proposal for blacklisting some firm, how will the Steel Ministry here know that the W. H. & S. Ministry are taking some action? Much less, how will the Iron and Steel Controller know that the W. H. and S. Ministry are contemplating some action? Therefore, I do not think that we could draw any adverse inferences.

I mentioned this thing because the matter was raised here. But the proper procedure which has been laid down is that when objections are raised by the P.A.C., the matter is explained to the Committee and either they are satisfied or Government make a formal statement on the floor of the House either accepting that position or trying to explain that. So I would not really like to prejudge that. But I thought that in fairness to the House I should acquaint the House with the circumstances in so far as I have been able to see after the Public Accounts Committee's Report came to my notice.

Mr. Speaker: I shall now put all the cut motions to the vote of the House.

All the cut motions were then put and negatived.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the order paper, be granted to the President, *to complete* the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1962, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 83 to 85 and 132 relating to the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel."

The motion was adopted.

[The motions of Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha are reproduced below—Ed.]

DEMAND NO. 83—MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,48,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel'."

DEMAND NO. 84—GEOLOGACIL SURVEY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,90,75,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

DEMAND NO. 85—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,19,51,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Other Expenditure under the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel'."

DEMAND NO. 132—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 72,16,91,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel'."

16:54 hrs.

MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

DEMAND NO. 37—MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,17,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

DEMAND NO. 38—FOREST

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 88,38,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Forest'."

DEMAND NO. 39—AGRICULTURE

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,94,03,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Agiculture'."

DEMAND NO. 40—AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,73,49,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Agricultural Research'."

DEMAND NO. 41—ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 99,42,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of Animal Husbandry'."

DEMAND NO. 42—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,69,46,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Other Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

DEMAND NO. 121—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON FORESTS

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,32,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Forests'."

DEMAND NO. 122—PURCHASE OF FOODGRAINS

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,97,38,01,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962 in respect of 'Purchase of Foodgrains'."

DEMAND NO. 123—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 48,94,45,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necesary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

Shri Prabhat Kar: How long are we going to sit?

Mr. Speaker: The time allotted for this Ministry is 8 hours. We will sit up to 6.30 P.M. as usual.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri Prabhat Kar: We started at 11 A.M. There was no Question Hour also.

Pandit K. C. Sharma (Hapur): We will sit up to 5 P.M.

Mr. Speaker: The difficulty is this, I have to apply the guillotine on the 19th. It was expected that the hon. Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel would take an hour. But he had to explain a number of things. Therefore, he took nearly two hours. We must find that time. Otherwise, the time that has been allotted to the other Ministries may have to be curtailed to that extent.

Otherwise, hon. Members may reserve whatever they have to say to the general discussion on the Finance Bill. Therefore, I will apply the guillotine on the 19th. All the Demands must be completed on that day at 5 o'clock. Or, the time for the Finance Ministry may be reduced.

Shri S. L. Saksena (Maharajganj): No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: But they may say everything on the Finance Bill.

Shri S. L. Saksena: We will sit today, Sir, at little extra time.

Mr. Speaker: Is it that the House is not in a mood to sit beyond 5 today? (*Interruptions*). The House is scheduled to sit till 6.30 today. We have the half-an-hour discussion regarding Railways. The discussion on the Demands of the Food and Agriculture Ministry will go on till 6; then, we take up the half-an-hour discussion. So, we will make it up.

Does the hon. Minister want to say anything?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): I will say at the end.

Shri Khushwaqut Rai (Kheri): Sir, I find from the papers today that certain policy decisions in regard to the sugar mills, the sugarcane growers etc. have been taken and these were mentioned in the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Congress Party. I would like the hon. Minister to enlighten us because that would help us in the debate.

Shri S. K. Patil: I would explain while replying. No decisions have been taken. Naturally, when the party executive meets some indication is given as to what is going to be done etc. We are considering these things. There are the State Governments also concerned in it; and I would be in a position to fully satisfy my hon. friends when I reply to the debate.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Mr. Speaker, Sir, criticising the policies and programmes of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, I think, I shall have to confine myself to two or three very important points. In this debate I propose to take up for discussion the utter disregard of the Government of India during the past years of animal husbandry as also the bungling which has been repeatedly found in handling the food situation.

Sir, I am not at all happy about the functioning of the Ministry. But, unfortunately, although I had sent hundreds of questions and received answers during this Session, I shall not have the time to convince this House by reading from the answers to those questions about what I would unhesitatingly say are the misdeeds of this Ministry.

16·57 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Let us take, first of all, the question of the latest agreement under the P.L. 480. We have had some agreements before. But, I must say, after going through the provisions, that this latest agreement in the P.L. 480 series has been the most unfortunate, and most pernicous one and it has inflicted the most unkindest cut of all on our economy. Normally, I should not say this; but I want the House to consider whether when we have spent a sum of $1276 million—I think it is revised a little now—it has to be viewed only from the point of view of a loan or whether we should view the effect of of this agreement from the point of view of the context of the agricultural economy each of the countries.

I shall not take the time of the House by producing my own arguments. But, permit me, Sir, to read a few quotations from one of the publications which it will be difficult or impossible for the hon. Minister to contradict when he replies. I am reading a series of quotations from the *State of Food and Agriculture*, 1960 published by the F.A.O. This gives an idea of what exactly was the situation in regard to the agricultural economy of the United States at the time when we were negotiating the loans and what exactly was the situation or agricultural economy in America as compared to the rest of the world. Here is a quotation from page 4.

"In the United States, however, where wheat yields are much

lower than in most European countries, they are still increasing with considerable momentum. This is in large part the origin of the accumulation of surplus stocks in that country, as well as the chief reason why it has not so far proved possible to check their expansion by means of measures designed to reduce acreage."

17 hrs.

Then I pass on to another page where another reason is given. I am reading from page 21 where it is said:

"In the United States the winter wheat crop is expected to be about 10 per cent larger and, with spring wheat production forecast as increasing 23 per cent, total wheat production may exceed the 1959/60 level by 13 per cent."

This is about 1959-60. So, I want the House to find out whether it was a gesture of philanthropy or whether the wheat loan was forced upon the United States Government by pressure of farm surpluses.

Then a comparison of the agricultural price indeces on the export of agricultural produce would show that the overall position in the world, as reported in the FAO publication, is that while the average unit value of exports had an index of 91 in 1957, it had come down to 87 in 1959. It means that the realisation from the exports per unit was less.

Then again at page 49,—it is very important—it is stated thus:

"The most important development in surplus disposal operations in the first half of 1960 was the conclusion of an agreement between the United States and India which provides for the sale over a four-year period of 16 million tons of wheat and 1 million tons of rice."

Therefore, we see that it was not actuated by any motive to help India as is envisaged in the preamble of the agreement but because the surplus disposal operations had to be speeded up and the excess grain which had accumulated in the United States had to be sent somewhere.

Then I shall say why India was chosen because there is an explanation for that also. It was chosen in this context; lower down on the same page, page 49, it has been stated thus:

"...this is the first agreement under Public Law 480 to extend over four years, and by far the largest single transaction."

What do the American economists say about that? I do not know what the hon. Minister will say, but the American economists, according to the FAO, say thus:

"It has therefore not unnaturally caused concern to other exporters of wheat and rice. Some economists, mainly in the United States, have also pointed out that the very large amounts of local currency involved may increase the inflationary pressure already evident in a country with a vast development program, and do not in fact increase the country's real capacity for investment."

Here is the crux of the whole matter. The American economist are convinced that in a country where there is already an inflationary spiral, this will not produce any tangible result in the matter of real investment.

Then, at page 53, the report says as follows:

"In the United States the fall in farm incomes from 1958 to 1959 was very considerable. Gross farm income is estimated to have fallen from...."

I do not want to read the figures. But then it says:

"In the first quarter of 1960—

that is, just before we concluded this PL 480 agreement—

"net farm receipts were also about 16 per cent less than a year

[Shri V. P. Nayar]

earlier, and an official estimate for 1960 as a whole points to a continuing decline in the net farm income."

Actually we find that if they give us a contract for the supply of 18 million tons of grains, the net agricultural income was falling, was expected to fall further in 1960.

Later on, at page 57, I find that in the United States the problem of surplus is most acute. The problem of surplus there is as acute as the problem of deficit here in India! That may be the argument. The report says as follows:—

"In the United States, where the problem of surpluses is most acute, attempts to reduce them by restricting acreage have largely been offset by rising yields, as discussed earlier in this chapter. So far the chief effective limitation on the further accumulation of surplus stocks has been their large scale disposal under special terms."

Ch. Ranbir Singh (Rohtak): Will the hon. Member agree to import?

Shri V. P. Nayar: Let the hon. Member wait. Therefore, I am certain that the special terms which have been claimed to be given by the agreement have been terms which have been forced on the United States administration because there was no way out.

At page 58 of the report, I find the following:

"Public Law 480, the principal legislation covering surplus disposal operations, has again been extended."

Further, we find that there have been no significant changes in agricultural policy in the United States in 1959-60. Various solutions to the problem of surpluses continue to be sought and proposed, but the views on price support policy are still divergent. So, I say there is absolutely no case for anybody to say that in America there was such a desire to help India.

Why do we at all go to America? There was an answer given by our own publication *Agricultural Situation in India*, which is the latest I have—1960. Here it says:

"While delivering an address in Rotterdam early in August, 1960, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture made it clear that the United States was gravely concerned with the implications of such a market—"

he was referring to the European Common Market—

"so far as the agricultural programme was concerned....Concern in both the United States and Canada in regard to the Common Market objectives, has stimulated the interest of both countries in the Far Eastern markets. As a result, there has been a sharp reduction of rail freights in the United States on hard wheats shipped to Pacific Coast ports for shipments to some countries of Asia."

Therefore, I say that this loan was arranged at a time when for the U.S., most of the traditional markets for export of wheat were closed by certain arrangements in Europe and there was no country prepared to take an excess of 8 to 9 million tons a year, which had become an unsaleable surplus.

Let us look at the terms and conditions of the agreement. I have made some calculations and I would very much like the hon. Minister to contradict me if I go wrong in my figures. May be I may not be quite correct up to the second decimal point. I find that wheat was purchased at a cost of Rs. 330 per ton plus transport charges. At the same time, I understand from his own Ministry that Australian wheat was selling at Rs. 305 per ton plus freight. I find that out of every rupee, 42½ nP. will be the loan part, 42½ nP.

will be the grant, 10 nP. will go to the U.S. establishments here and 5 nP. will go to the U.S. private business. This works out to Rs. 140 per ton as loan part, Rs. 140 as grant and Rs. 50 for U.S. Embassy and U.S. private trade.

Let us see how the interest works out. It is very easy to say that they are giving 42½ nP. as grant and 42½ nP. of every rupee as loan. Let us calculate interest at 4½ per cent on the loan part. I presume 4½ per cent is as the average of P.L. 480 loans interest. At 4½ per cent, I find it will work out to about 92 per cent of the principal. It is repayable in a period of 40 or 50 years. I have done all the calculations and I find that on every 42½ nP. the loan part, if interest at 4½ per cent for 40 years is calculated, it will work out to 92 per cent. Apart from that, you will have to calculate the money which is given to the American Embassy for the purpose of meeting the expenditure of the U.S. establishments here. Therefore, I find that if they sell wheat at Rs. 330 per ton, what they will be taking at the rate of this calculation will be about Rs. 319 per ton, whereas Australian wheat was available at Rs. 305. I do not know whether Australia made an offer or not, but the fact remains that although they claim that 42½ nP. in the rupee is given as grant, what we have to repay is very much more than that, and that is at a time when the U.S. had absolutely no chance of selling this wheat in any place. They had either to burn it or sink it in the sea. There was no customer at all who was prepared to purchase that wheat amounting to millions of tons.

I would like to know from the Minister what is the particular advantage which we have derived from this. The answer has always been, "We must necessarily have a buffer-stock of 5 million tons and we must necessarily import in order to stabilise the prices." We have spent crores and crores of rupees—over Rs. 1500 crores on our agricultural programmes, grow more food campaigns and irrigation and flood control programmes. We had raised agricultural production by 30 per cent and 67 per cent of all the land irrigated under the programme has been for food production. With all this, after ten years of planning and increasing the production by 30 per cent or 40 per cent and having a target now of another 30 to 40 per cent whereby at the end of the Plan the production will be 100 million to 105 million tons, now he says that it is necessary to import 18 million tons for 4 years. What is this supposed to be for? Where were we all this time? All this time we were told that the prices have to be stabilised. On the other hand, I think such a large import at such fantastic prices will dampen the enthusiasm of our peasants and will make our authorities complacement in the matter of raising more production.

Sir, the hon. Minister always says that the work of the Ministry is over, questions in the House are fewer and he has nothing more to do. It is not so. By these loans we have committed our children and our grand-children for the repayment of loans for which there is no justification. I am very sorry that for the sake of adding one more chappati a week to our diet we are making our children and their children pay for the loans under conditions which are not at all favourable to us. I do not want to stretch this point any more. I shall take up the question of animal husbandry. In the field of animal husbandry, you will be surprised to know that when India at the end of the Third Five Year Plan would have made a total investment of over Rs. 20,000 crores in all productive enterprises together only a sum of less than Rs. 50 crores would have been spent on animal husbandry including fisheries. You know that India today has more than one-fourth of the total livestock population of the world. Our cattle as estimated in the 1956 census was over 300 million. We have a poultry strength of not less than 100 million—I am giving only rough figures because there will be no time to read

[Shri V. P. Nayar]

out exact figures. But you will find that our records are so distressingly low today from the point of view of milk consumption that India is the lowest in per capita averages. We have an average of 5.5 ounces as compared to 20 ounces and over in other countries.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): China is the lowest. They have not seen milk at all.

Shri V. P. Nayar: If they have not seen milk at all we cannot say that China is the lowest. I would not include a country in any classification so far as milk consumption is concerned when it has not seen milk at all. When I say India is the lowest it is the lowest among those where milk is available.

I have heard in this House, times without number, hon. Members, moving resolutions, asking questions and even introducing Bills saying that our cow needs protection. You know, Sir, our cows are the successors of those fabulous cows which our ancestors worshipped—Kamadhenu and Nandini which were giving anything to a man who worshipped them. What is the position of the present cows? If you want a cow to give you one ounce of milk she has to be continuously beaten because it is so much starved.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Sasaram): In Kerala it may be so.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I will give some interesting figures. Punjab I know, has an average *per capita* consumption of 13·5 ounces per head. But the minimum prescribed by nutritional experts is 15 ounces. Therefore, even the rich milk drinking State of Punjab has not come up to the minimum nutritional standards fixed by experts.

Let us now look at the average milk yield. The average milk yield of Indian cows during one lactation comes to 160 kilograms——one lb. of milk per day—while Pakistan is having 913 kilograms, Malaya 520 kilograms, Netherlands 4,040 kilograms and Israel 4,190 kilograms. That is why I said that we are only worshipping the starved cow, we do not feed the cow and make it yield.

Ch. Ranbir Singh (Rohtak): What about Kerala?

Shri V. P. Nayar: I would request the hon. Member not to interrupt me. I know, Sir, if you take an analysis the overall position of the milk yield you will find that hardly 7 per cent. of cows yield more than 2 pounds a day. If you take buffaloes which are supposed to be very good milk yielders, hardly 13 per cent. give more than six ounces a day. This is the condition.

It is not confined to milk alone. Let us take the question of meat. In 1939 we had 11 calories worth of meat in our daily diet. In 1960 the calorific content of our meat intake has come down to 6 calories while that of Pakistan has increased from 11 to 24. I do not say that in Pakistan the cow is worshipped. That apart, it is 13 in Ceylon, 46 in the United Arab Republic and the fantastic figure of 565 in Australia. In egg consumption we have just 1 calory of egg in our daily intake, while it is 77 in Israel and 80 in the United States. This is the position we are in.

Government would attribute all this to three conditions. I have read so many of their publications and reports. In all these they say that it is due to the poor quality of the breeds of animals as well as our poultry birds, and insufficiency of feeds and fodder and also the improper care which our people are giving. I would like to ask one question. What is the programme by which the Government have considered it necessary or desirable to do away with the cattle population which is no longer necessary for our country.

I know the only person in this Ministry who holds very strong views about this is my hon. friend, the young and energetic Deputy Minister Shri Krishnappa. He has taken courage in both hands and has submitted in this House that, unfortunately, because of sentiments we have a feeling that the cows should be worshipped. I understand that today the worthless cattle number about two crores. I am very sorry to say that the cow-worshipping Punjab has got the largest number of stray cattle and that after the lactation period they are simply driven away to other people, fields to fend for themselves. We have two crores of such cattle which is becoming a menace to our cultivation.

What do we do? There is a scheme for *Gosalas* or *Gosamvardhan*. If we take into account the two crores of cows which are not wanted for any purpose—they are no good for agriculture; they are no good, possibly, for anything except to serve as beef for food, to which I shall come latter —if we are to have *Gosamvardhan* or *Gosalas*, calculated at the rate of 8 annas per cow per day, we have to spend for the rehabilitation of these living skeletons, which we call cow and cattle, a sum of Rs. 1 crore per day. Is it worthwhile? This is very simple question. Why is it that Government cannot take courage in both hands and say it is not worthwhile?

I know that the Constitution has made certain provisions, restricting cow slaughter. We also know that at the time of framing the Constitution there were some sentiments on this subject. I put this simple question to anybody who will defend protection of stray useless cattle. I will come to the question of beef later on.

For that matter, if any orthodox Hindu says that according to our Shastras beef can not be eaten, he is completely wrong. Beef has been eaten during the glorious days of Hindu culture, and if somebody wants authority, I shall give him several authorities also. Everybody will understand and appreciate the authority of Kautilya's Arthasastra. I would invite the attention of hon. Members to that.

An Hon. Member: We will refer it to Shri Prakash Vir Shastri.

Shri V. P. Nayar: We have got a very good translation of it by Shri Shama Shastri in our library. On page 159 of that book, this passage occurs:

> "They (cowherds) may sell either flesh or dried flesh."

It indicates that cowherds had permission to sell cow's flesh, which is called beef. Now what is the taboo on beef. Where did we get this inhibition from? We know that there were sages—I do not want to go into details —who, the moment they arrived at a house as a guest, were treated with beef.

Shri Amjad Ali: *Gokhana.*

Shri V. P. Nayar: Shri Amjad Ali says they are called *Gokhana*. I do not want to go into that. But why is it not possible for the Government of India to have a programme to finish off all the unwanted cow and if there is sentimental or other objection against eating beef in India, why not export that beef? There is already a very good overseas' market for beef. Also do not be under the impression that in India nobody eats beef. My friends from Madras consume the largest quantity of beef in India. In Calcutta also beef is consumed, apart from veal, which is also available in large quantities.

Now, why do you allow the sentiments to stand in the way of developing our nation?

There is a potential export market for beef. By just tinkering with this

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problem and saying that one *goshala* here and another there will do justice to the problem and solve it, it is difficult to solve it. All the programmes which the Government have in view and have taken up for implementation do not even touch the fringe of the problem of animal husbandry. I have no time to go into the details of poultry or piggery, but the fact remains that Government, although they know the importance of animals in our agricultural economy do not realise that they have not done anything. They know how important it is. may say that animal husbandy has a more vital role to play in our economy than in any other country because still although machines are being used for cultivation and other agricultural purposes, 90 per cent of agricultural operations have necessarily to depend upon bullock power. In our entire transport I think bullock carts pull a load far greater than any other single medium. The hides and skins in spite of inroads by synthetic products still hold sway in the market. Therefore it is not like any other country. Here unfortunately we have a very vast number which we are completely neglecting and are living in the past traditions with weather beaten superstitions.

I have no time otherwise I would have shown that in India with the present population and the yield per acre of all types of fodders it is not possible to satisfy at least 50 per cent of the minimum food requirement of a head of cattle. That is the position, whether it is straw, bran, barley and every feed and fodder. We do not produce in India 50 per cent of the minimum requirement of this vast animal population Therefore I say that if the hon. Minister feels that he has solved the food problem in respect of grains he should kindly divert his attention to another problem of which he will find that after living one hundred years he will not have touched the fringe if he goes at the present rate. I wish him all that life, but let him at least have a serious approach made to it.

I will say a few words about fishery. I know Ch. Ranbir Singh might relish if instead of getting a speech he got a fish from me.

Ch. Ranbir Singh (Rohtak): Why not offer milk and its product, namely butter, ghee.

Shri V. P. Nayar: This is a field which also has been completely neglected. You know that we have 2,900 miles of coastline. It does not require a lb. of ammonium sulphate to produce more fish from the sea. We do not have to irrigate a single acre to take the fish from the sea. We do not have to have flood control schemes producing more fish from the sea. Yet, with all that there are these natural resources still unexploited. We have only to reach the natural resources and take the fish.

I find that in the last Five-Year Plan a very small provision was made for this. For 2,900 miles of coastline only Rs. 200 lakhs were provided for deep sea fishing. Presumably beause the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission did not eat fish—he was very orthodox—the Planning Commission cut it down from Rs. 200 lakhs to Rs. 40 lakhs. Only Rs. 40 lakhs were allotted for this. It is disgraceful to say that with vast resources still to be exploited, such a big country as India would not even import one fishing vessel during the whole of the Five-Year Plan period. I would challenge the hon. Minister to contradict me on this. We have not imported a single fishing vessel during the whole of the Second Five-Year Plan period. I am prepared to congratulate certain sections of that Ministry because despite serious limitations they have done very good work. I have followed their work.

In answer to a question the other day in which I had asked whether any

recent equipment is being used in the matter of mechanised fishing the answer comes from one of the hon. Ministers—I think it was from Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh—that echo sounders are being used.... (*Interruption*). The word 'echo sounder' will create on echo in the House and we will think that it is the latest equipment worth several million rupees. But he does not know that an echo sounder to be used in a fishing vessel hardly costs Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1,200. Not even one per cent of our mechanised craft have got that, yet we have not got echo sounders. Government have not understood perhaps that besides echo sounders we have to have electronic equipment. We have to have radio telephone. If a ship is fishing at some place and a fish shoal is sighted immediately a message can be conveyed to another ship which is fishing 15 or 20 miles away so that it can rush and cover the shoal with nets. Nothing of the kind has happened in our fisheries. Nevertheless, I say with very limited resources given to them certain of our scientists have done extremely good work, especially off shore-fishing units and they have acquitted themselves with commendable credit. But what is the advantage? When they do something and when they get good work, Government does not pay them any attention and government does not want to take advantage of the results.

Then, Sir, good work has also been done in the matter of designing and developing fishing gear, tackle and craft by the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology. I do not know the details of the personnel who are there, but from the reports I find quite good work has been done.

But there is another institution in which I am very deeply interested and that is the Marine Research Institute at Mandapam. That also has done good work, but the good work is confined inside the laboratory. I understand that there is no obligation on the part of the scientists of the Marine Research Institute at Mandapam to go out into the sea. They must wait there, get all the data from those who go from their fishing stations and then they will go on sampling details or analysing the data. I would suggest to the hon. Minister that he should change it and see that the scientists attached to that unit must necessarily go out into the sea so that they may get a first hand idea of what happens.

Sir, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to use all his drive, initiative and enthusiasm to convert the Planning Commission into an organisation which is more animal minded, poultry minded and fisheries-minded I would also request the hon. Minister to demand for a grant of at least Rs. 50 crores only for exploitation of our deep seas, because in the world over you will not find many fishing banks and fishing grounds with such vast potentialities as the Pedro Bank and the Wadge Bank. We have not been able to go anywhere near it, while Japanese fishing vessels come steaming 6 to 8 thousand miles and reap a good harvest. Allotment of a crore here and half a crore there might sound very much, but it is not going to solve the problem.

One more point, Sir, and I have done That is the ICAR. I do not know how the ICAR has been entrusted with such responsibilities when it is only a society registered under the Societies Registration Act. Crores of rupees are being spent. No satisfactory progress has been made in any of the schemes which are financed by the ICAR. And when I ask a question, for example, as to what is the date on which there was research in coconut the poor Minister is made to give an answer that the information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House. When I ask a question about the Research station at Palode, the answer is, information has to come. This is the way in which this institution is functioning. I must say with all the emphasis at my disposal that the ICAR

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should be reorganised and made a wing of the Ministry. There is no question of giving huge grants to non-official bodies and asking them to dole out for reseach programmes. It must be controlled by a person who is very knowledgeable in science, not by a person who because he happens to belong to the ICS goes round from place to place and ultimately lands himself in Delhi. If at all it is to work seriously it must go to a scientist. I find that the proportion of non-technical to technical personnel is rather shameful. There are more non-technical persons in the ICAR which considers the merits and demerits of these grants, as my hon. friend has given me answer to that effect.

The ICAR is just at the stage at which it was formed years ago and no changes have been made except that the word "Imperial" has been changed to "India". I would very earnestly request the hon. Minister to revitalise the whole programme for animal husbandry, fisheries.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: And piggery.

Shri V. P. Nayar: My hon. friend Mr. Vittal Rao says that piggery also should be included. Piggery must be an intergral part of any programme, because there is no other useful animal which can be kept and which can be multiplied in such a short time as pig. As you know pig has a very short pregnancy and a litter runs into six to 12. That alone will solve the food problem in India. It is not a question of a few minor irrigation works here and there. If you invest Rs. 50 an a piggery, I am sure that will be repaid in the next year and can get Rs. 50,000 in the course of four or five years. That is the law of nature which must be taken advantage of by the hon. Minister and his Department.

I would resume my seat by making one request of the hon. Minister. He may, I know by his thundering eloquence, especially of the maidan type be able to floor me. But this is not the type of reply I expect.

I want a realistic approach to the whole problem. If the hon. Minister feels that he has spare time, because he has not much to do on the food side, he must divert his energies to the full to the field of animal husbandry and fisheries and come to us next year and say that some good beginning has been made to lay a solid foundation for our economy.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have received four names with the request that as the Members are leaving today they must be called today. That is not possible for me.

Shri Sankarapandian.

Shri Rami Reddy *rose*—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, the hon. Member is one of them.

Shri Sankarapandian (Tenkasi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, it is reported that this year we shall have a foodgrain production of 75 million tons. For this substantial upward jump in the availability of foodgrains we have to thank the Food and Agriculture Ministry, though a good portion of it is due to the improvement of weather conditions. Of course the Ministry of Food and Agriculture has realised this fact and made a decision to import foodgrains from America under PL 480 and also an additional quantity of rice from Burma.

Let me go back to the year 1951 when the First Plan was formulated and presented to the country. It was clearly declared then that one of our main objectives is to make our country self-sufficient in food. We are now at the end of the Second Plan and are looking forward towards the Third Plan. But can the Government clearly state whether we are closer to the achievement of that objective now than ten years ago? If it is not so, is it not an occasion to

re-examine some of the plans that we have so far followed?

It is widely recognised, especially after the Ford Foundation submitted its findings on the food problem of India, that extensive use of fertilisers should be the central plank on which increase of food production should be planned. If this is so, should we not encourage the use of fertilisers throughout the country?

One of the chief bottlenecks in the rapid increase of fertiliser utilisation is our limited production. As a result of this, a substantial increase in fertiliser capacity has now been planned for the Third Plan. The fertiliser from the new plants would be available only towards the end of the Third Plan period. In the meantime the country would have to do with the existing low production *plus* import. Even after the additional quantity of fertilisers is available, it will scarcely be adequate to meet the requirements of the country. So I would request the hon. Minister to impress upon institutions like the World Bank and the Governments of the other countries that are willing to give assistance, that fertilisers are just as important, if not more, to India's economy as industrial machinery. Not only it is necessary to have a larger quantity of fertilisers, it is also necessary to make it available to the average farmer at a price he can afford to pay. At present fertiliser prices in India are among the highest in the world. As the Fertiliser Distribution Inquiry Committee has pointed out, these prices are greatly out of line with the foodgrain prices. A farmer selling his output at the prevailing prices for foodgrains cannot utilise fertiliser which sells at Rs. 360 per ton. The Government cannot seriously think that at this high price the use of fertiliser can become widely current. It has been argued that increased production of fertilisers in the country in the next few years would bring the prices down. While this may occur, any substantial fall in the prices cannot be envisaged. It is absolutely essential that the prices of fertilisers should be reduced.

While the prices of fertilisers should be brought down, support must also be given to the foodgrain prices. It is now generally accepted that the farmer must be guaranteed a minimum price for his produce. In principle, this view seems to have been accepted by the Government. In fact, on several occasions, we have been told that Government would actually take measures to implement this policy, but nothing concrete has been done so far.

There is no gainsaying the fact that there are practical difficulties in the way of a guaranteed price. The building up of a buffer stock is hindered by the lack of warehousing facilities. Warehousing occupies an important place in the national economy of other countries like the USA and Canada. But, anyhow, our Government have not devised any methods to improve the condition in this respect Unless they have an adequate quantity of buffer stock, the minimum price cannot be guaranteed.

I must emphasise that to promote intensive cultivation, which is the only way by which enough food for the growing population of the country can be provided, it is necessary that the agricultural prices are stabilised. It is ridiculous to expect the farmer to make his best efforts for raising the yield on his land in a situation where the major benefit from his effort is always in danger of being swallowed by the middleman. The farmer must be assured of his rightful gains, if he is expected to invest money and put in more of his labour into cultivation.

A guaranteed price alone, of course, is not the panacea for all the ills that beset the agriculturists. Improved yields through better cultural practices—the core of the agricultural development—cannot be brought

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about speedily without the dynamic extension services. The farmer has to be educated in the modern methods of cultivation. He has to be taught how to utilise fertilizers, green-manures and insecticides to maximise his yield. Further, in addition to this overall improvement, he has to be assisted in his special problems. Each area and each village has got special agronomical problems which often cannot be solved by the farmer. In this direction, the community development and the national extension service people are helping them, but it is not sufficient, because the notional extension services are saddled with so many responsibilities and multifarious services that they are not able to focus their attention on these problems. So, agricultural extension service should be given higher priority, and the personnel responsible for it must give undivided attention to it.

I understand that the All India Agricultural Implements Committee has submitted reports recommending some improved implements to be used by the farmers, but no private people are coming forward to undertake the manufacture of these implements, fearing that the agricultural co-operatives and the industrial co-operatives will come in their way. But Government should take some steps in this direction also, to manufacture these agricultural implements cheaply so that they could be supplied to the farmers.

Regarding land ceiling also, I am sorry to say that Government have failed to evolve a uniform policy for the country. Each State and each man speaks as it or he likes. Either in the matter of fixing the ceiling of the land-holding or in the matter of fixing the price of the commodity, I should like to know what formula Government are following.

The hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture is acclaimed everywhere that he is a very successful Minister. His main function now is turned from the distribution to the production side. For increased production, small tractors like hand-driven tractors etc. are to be supplied to the small farmers.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the Ministry should possess some factories of its own to manufacture agricultural implements which can be supplied to the farmers at a cheaper rate, and high-quality implements also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, Shri Rami Reddy. He should finish within ten minutes, because he asked only for that much time. Because he is going away, therefore, I have allowed him.

Shri Rami Reddy: I shall finish within ten minutes.

Shri M. B. Thakore: Sir, A Member from the north also may be called.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am first calling those who are leaving today. I shall call the others later.

Shri Rami Reddy: At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Ministry on having created a climate of confidence in the country that no one would suffer on account of shortage of foodgrains in the country. Good buffer stocks have been created, as a result of which the wheat zones could be abolished; before long, it is also expected—the Minister hopes so—that the rice zones might be abolished, thus making the whole country into a single zone. But this should not lead us to an air of complacency which is already coming over the Ministry that in future one need not be afraid that there will be shortage of foodgrains etc. This is evident from the fact that even today we are obliged to import 5 million tons of foodgrains per annum, though one year ago we were importing only 3 million tons. Over a period of four years, we will be obliged to import about 5 million tons annually.

Even in regard to the production of other agricultural commodities like oilseeds, cotton and jute, the performance during the last two or three years has not been very encouraging. As a matter of fact, the production of jute and oilseeds has been going down and the position in regard to cotton has not been very satisfactory. This has also been mentioned in the Report published by the Ministry itself.

If we have to achieve self-sufficiency or near-self-sufficiency by the end of the Third Plan, we will have to take into consideration the growing population. The recent census has shown that there is a population increase of 2·1 per cent. per annum. This factor has to be taken serious notice of if we have to achieve self-sufficiency or near-self-sufficiency. A war-like effort has to be made for producing more and more.

In this connection, the only solution is intensive cultivation. For that, fertiliser is the most important item that would contribute for more and more yield and greater and greater per acre yield. The previous speaker has spoken of the Ministry's plans to produce fertilisers by the end of the Plan; therefore, I need not go into that matter again. He has also mentioned that fertilisers should be supplied at a very cheap rate. On this point, I would like to say that the cost of production of fertilisers in our country has been round about Rs. 300 per ton, whereas the cost of imported fertiliser—I am speaking of sulphate of ammonia—is about Rs. 217 or Rs. 220 per ton. So the cost of production itself in our country is already high. In addition to that, there is another element of cost. Distribution of supplies of fertilisers is done by the Central Fertiliser Pool under the control of this Ministry. They pool all the fertilisers, both indigenously produced and imported. They take into account the railway freight, staff charges and other incidental charges and they supply fertilisers at a uniform rate throughout the country.

In this connection, I should say that the Fertiliser Pool was started with the intention of supplying fertilisers to the farmers throughout the country on a no-profit-no-loss basis. If this criterion has to be applied, the price of fertiliser should be only Rs. 300 per ton, because the no-profit-no-loss price cannot be more than that, even according to the calculation of the Ministry. But now they are adding Rs. 50 per ton as profit to this Fertiliser Pool. In addition to that, the State Governments which have to distribute the fertiliser to the farmers, are permitted to charge another Rs. 30 per ton for distribution within the State. The fertilizer is now sold at Rs. 380 per ton. At any rate, I would submit that the making of a profit of Rs. 50 per ton is most unjust when it is the primary duty, of the Government to supply fertilizers at cheap rates, at subsidised rates. The Government has absolutely no justification at all for making profit on this business. It is, in fact, levying a tax from the farmer for the supply of fertilizers. It is an irony that the farmer who is the poorest in the world is charged the highest rate in the world for fertilizers in this country.

Besides that, as a result of this Rs. 50 per ton profit, during the last 3 years they have made enormous profits. I am quoting figure from a report of the United Nations Fertilizer Mission to India. They have submitted a report and from that report I am quoting the figures. In 1957-58, the fertilizer pool made a profit of Rs. 1·54 lakhs; in 1958-59, they have made Rs. 350 lakhs; in 1959-60, they have made a profit of Rs. 637 lakhs; and, probably, during 1960-61 they are making a profit of Rs. 9 crores or Rs. 10 crores. And, it is said that all these profits go to the general revenues.

I could understand if these profits go to a Farmers' Fund for the benefit of the farmers, for the developmental activities of the farmers. But, these profits are being added on to

[Shri Rami Reddy]

the general revenues. I submit this is most unjust.

The Fertilizer Distribution Inquiry Committee also has recommended that the price of fertilizers shall be reduced. Even at the factory concerned, Sindri, the price is given a margin of 10 per cent. of profit over production cost and then, adding Rs. 50 for every Rs. 300 it comes to 16·6 per cent. profit for the fertilizer pool. So, in all its cost to the farmer is more than 26 per cent. over the cost of production. This is very unjust. Therefore, I submit that the Ministry should take proper steps for reducing the cost of the fertilizer to be supplied to the farmers.

In this connection I would like to say a word about the allocation of fertilizers. The allocations are made to the different States on the demands that are made by the different States. The demand itself is not based on the actual requirements. The Central Government indicates that a particular quantity say 1 lakh tons or 2 lakh tons of nitrogen will be available in a particular year. On that basis they will have to calculate the demand. The allocation is not based either on actual requirements or on the extent of the area irrigated or on the basis of population. This is not just; this should be done on the actual requirements in each State.

So is the case in regard to agricultural implements. It is heartening to note that the Ministry has succeeded in supplying iron and steel for agricultural purposes on "core" requirements. They have been added as requirements under the category of "core". But the allocation has not been made on the actual requirements. Again, it is neither on the basis of population nor on actual requirements of a particular State. This also should be done on the basis of actual requirements.

Then, in regard to minor irrigation, I would mention one word. I congratulate the Ministry for they have succeeded in achieving the target. They say that they have exceeded the target in regard to minor irrigation. They have been doing really wonderful work in this regard. I submit that more and more resources should be provided for minor irrigation.

In this connection, I would mention one thing about tube-wells which are connected with this minor irrigation. Tube-wells should be provided in scarcity areas where there is no surface water available. In times of drought and other things the level of underground water does not deplete as much as surface water. Especially in the case of the scarcity areas, these tubewells do wonderful service. The hon. Deputy Minister, Shri M. V. Krishnappa, had also visited the scarcity areas in Andhra Pradesh and Mysore, and he has noticed how urgently these scarcity areas require tube-wells and other things. About the successful well, the Exploratory Tubewells Organisation has said that a successful well is one which yields about 20,000 gallons per hour at a depth of 20 feet. But in regard to the scarcity ares this criterion has to be revised. Special concessions have to be shown to them and I am sure that the Minister would agree to this proposal.

I should like to conclude with one more suggestion. There is enough of foodgrains in Andhra Pradesh. There are some States like Kerala and others where the foodgrains are required. The southern zone consists of the four southern States and there is surplus rice available there. But on account of the shortage of wagons there has been no proper movement of foodgrains. Therefore, the foodgrains could not be exported from several stations in Andhra Pradesh. So, I request that this Ministry should take up with the Railway Ministry the question of supplying more wagons for the movement of foodgrains from the surplus to the deficit States.

श्री प्र० ना० सिंह (चन्दौली) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्रालय के अनुदानों पर बहस के अवसर पर मैं इस बात की याद दिलाना चाहता हूं कि १४ वर्षों के बाद भी अभी तक खाद्यान्न के मामले में हमारा देश आत्मनिर्भर नहीं हो पाया है।

अभी हमारे मित्र श्री नायर ने पी० एल० ४८० के समझौते की बात उठाई थी। मैं इस बहस में नहीं पड़ना चाहता कि यह समझौता कहां तक वाजिब है। लेकिन उसका महत्व इस दृष्टि से है कि आज इतने साल बीत जाने पर भी इस देश में चार वर्ष के अन्दर ५ करोड़ ७० लाख टन गल्ला ७ अरब रुपये की लागत से अमरीका से मंगाया जायेगा। उसी के साथ-साथ यूनाइटेड अरब रिपब्लिक, श्याम, कैनाडा, बर्मा और दूसरे मुल्कों से भी इस देश के अन्दर गल्ला मंगाया जा रहा है। इसका सीधा मतलब यह है कि गल्ले के मामले में जो आत्मनिर्भरता हमको इन पिछले १४ वर्षों के अन्दर प्राप्त कर लेनी चाहिए थी, वह आज तक प्राप्त नहीं हो पायी है। मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि जहां तक बेसिक इंडस्ट्रीज की मशीनों के बनाये जाने का सवाल है, उनको भी अभी तक हम बनाने की हालत में नहीं है। लेकिन फिर भी अपने उद्योगों के लिए जो कच्चे माल की आवश्यकता है, कृषि के द्वारा जो कच्चे माल के देने का सवाल है उस कच्चे माल को भी हम इस [illegible] पैदा नहीं कर रहे हैं। पिछले साल ६ लाख गांठ रुई की अमरीका से मंगाने की बात हुई और वह मंगाई गई। इस स्थिति को देखते हुए मैं सरकार के सामने इस बात को रखना चाहता हूं कि जब तक कृषि और खाद्य के सम्बन्ध में वह मौलिक रूप से अपनी नीतियों में परिवर्तन नहीं करेगी तब तक वह इस खाद्यान्न की समस्या को हल नहीं कर सकेगी। इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार को अपनी जमीन नीति के सम्बन्ध में फैसला करना पड़ेगा। इसके साथ ही सरकार को किसानों के सम्बन्ध में अपनी दाम नीति तथा [illegible] नीति के सम्बन्ध में भी फैसला करना पड़ेगा।

जहां तक जमीन नीति का ताल्लुक है यह जमीन के मालिकाने से मध्यवर्तियों के खत्म करने के प्रश्न को अभी भी पूरे तरीके से हल नहीं किया जा सका है। सन १९६० और ६१ की रिपोर्ट में भी कहा गया है कि अभी तक यह हल नहीं हो पाया है। अभी तक असम, गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र और मद्रास के राज्यों में मध्यवर्तियों की पूरे तौर से समाप्ति नहीं हुई है। अभी तक उन राज्यों में मध्यवर्ती पड़े हुए हैं। जो खेतीबाड़ी करे जमीन उसके हाथ में जाय, यह सिद्धान्त पूर्णतः लागू नहीं हो पाया है। अभी भी हजारों बीघा जमीन के बड़े मालिक पड़े हुए हैं। जहां पर कि आपने मध्यवर्तियों को खत्म करना चाहा वहां पर भी जबर्दस्ती बेदखली के द्वारा जमीन उनके हाथ से निकाल ली गई जो कि जमीन को जोतते और बोते थे और वह ऐसे लोगों के हाथों में पड़ गई जो कि अपने हाथ से मेहनत नहीं करते।

यह लैंड की सीलिंग का सवाल बहुत अर्से से चल रहा है लेकिन उसके सम्बन्ध में एक स्पष्ट नीति सरकार अभी तक नहीं बना पाई है। देश की पैदावार बढ़ाने के सिलसिले में हमको इस बात को ध्यान में रखना चाहिए कि खेतीबाड़ी का काम जो लोग खुद अपने हाथ से करते हैं वही इस देश की पैदावार को अच्छे तरीके से बढ़ा सकते हैं। लैंड पर सीलिंग किये जाने का सवाल बहुत अर्से से चल रहा है लेकिन अभी तक ठीक तरीके से इस सम्बन्ध में काम नहीं हो पाया है। इसके सम्बन्ध में ठीक नीति नहीं अपनाई जा रही है। अभी भी लोगों के हाथों में हजारों एकड़ जमीन पड़ी हुई है फिर भी जमीन के बंटवारे का प्रश्न ठीक तरीके से नहीं चल रहा है।

उत्तर प्रदेश में ५ आदमियों के परिवार पर ४० एकड़ की सीलिंग की गई है और ८ आदमियों के परिवार पर ८० एकड़ की सीलिंग की गई है। दिल्ली में २५ या ३० एकड़ पर सीलिंग होती है। दूसरे सूबों में दूसरी तरह

[श्री प्र० ना० सिंह]

की बात हो रही है। यह आवश्यक है कि लैंड सीलिंग के विषय में एक स्पष्ट नीति हो। लैंड सीलिंग के सवाल को जितनी तेजी से तय करना चाहिए उतनी तेजी से सरकार तय नहीं कर पाई है।

इसी के साथ-साथ हम देखते हैं कि जहां तक सरकार की दाम नीति का सवाल है वह नीति स्पष्ट नहीं है। जब तक कृषि के उत्पादित पदार्थों के दाम के सिलसिले में सरकार ठीक फैसला नहीं लेगी तब तक कृषि उत्पादन को बढ़ाना सम्भव नहीं हो पायेगा। कुछ कृषि पदार्थों के दामों में वृद्धि होने का नतीजा यह हुआ कि लोगों में पैदावार को बढ़ाने में दिलचस्पी पैदा हुई। हमारे मित्र श्री शिब्बन लाल सक्सैना ऊख के दाम के मामले में सदन को बतलायेंगे। अब मैं आपको बतलाऊं कि हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में किसानों द्वारा यह मांग करने पर कि उनको २ रुपया मन ऊख का दाम मिले और जो कि उनको आज से ७–८ वर्ष पहले मिलता थी भी, बजाय वह दाम देने के, इस पर कैबिनेट में एक डिप्टी मिनिस्टर साहब के चीनी के कारखाने पर गोली चलाई गई और जिसके कि फलस्वरूप गोरखपुर में दो किसान गोली से मारे गये। मैं चाहता हूं कि इस दाम नीति के मामले में ठीक तरीके से विचार किया जाये। इस सम्बन्ध में यह बात भी ध्यान में रखनी चाहिए कि खलिहान के समय गल्ले की कीमत कम होती है और जब दो, चार महीने भर बाद वही गल्ला बाजार में आ जाता है तो उसमें बहुत फर्क पड़ जाता है और उसकी कीमत में करीब दूने का फर्क पड़ जाता है। सरकार को इस तरह की नीति बनानी चाहिये कि जिससे खलिहान में जो गल्ले की कीमत हो और बाजार में जो गल्ले की कीमत हो उसमें एक आने सेर से ज्यादा का फर्क न पड़े। खलिहान और बाजार के गल्ले के दाम में बहुत फर्क होना किसी तरह से भी उचित नहीं है। सरकार की आज की दाम नीति का नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि किसान और उपभोक्ता दोनों उस दाम नीति के अन्दर पिसे जा रहे हैं। इसलिए यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि सरकार की दाम नीति बहुत ही साफ होनी चाहिए।

इस समय जो धान बिक रहा है वह पिछले साल के मुकाबले कम दाम पर बिक रहा है। नतीजा यह होता है कि खलिहान के मौके पर किसान को गल्ले का दाम कम मिलता है लेकिन बाद में जब वही गल्ला बाजार में आता है तो उसका दाम बहुत चढ़ जाता है। सरकार को दाम नीति के सम्बन्ध में ठीक तरीके से और स्पष्ट फैसला करना चाहिए।

इसी के साथ-साथ कर नीति का जहां तक सम्बन्ध है किसानों पर किस तरीके से कर लगे इस सम्बन्ध में भी सरकार ठीक तरीके से फैसला करे। मैं सारे देश की बात तो नहीं कहना चाहता लेकिन मैं उत्तर प्रदेश का उदाहरण देना चाहता हूं। लेकिन जैसी स्थिति उत्तर प्रदेश की है वैसी ही स्थिति लगभग सारे देश की है। जो आंकड़े दिये गये हैं उनके मुताबिक ८० फीसदी किसान ऐसे हैं जिनको कि खेती पर खर्च करने के बाद तथा अपना जीवन निर्वाह करने के बाद कुछ नहीं बचता है। ऐसी हालत में यदि आप यह कोशिश करें कि जो किसानों के पास थोड़ा बहुत बचे उसे टैक्स द्वारा आप निकाल लें तो फिर उनके पास कुछ भी नहीं बचेगा जो कि वह खेतीबाड़ी की तरक्की करने में इनवैस्ट कर सकें। जाहिर है कि यदि खेती में साधन नहीं जुटाये जायेंगे तो उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ पायेगा।

इधर उत्तर प्रदेश में अभी यह बात कर रहे हैं कि सिंचाई के सिलसिले में किसानों को जो तीन आने फी रुपया रिबेट मिलता था उस रिबेट को उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार वापिस लेना चाहती है। इसका लाजिमी नतीजा यह होगा कि किसानों के पास जो थोड़ा सा पैसा बचता था और जो कि खेती की तरक्की करने

के काम में आता था, उसको किसानों पर इस तरह से कर लगा कर ले लेना चाहते हैं और जिसका कि नतीजा यह निकलेगा कि वह अपनी खेती की पैदावार को नहीं बढ़ा सकेंगे ।

इसी के साथ-साथ हमको इस बात को भी ध्यान में रखना है कि बिना अच्छे बीज के, पूरे तौर से खाद तथा बिना पानी दिये हुये हम खेती की पैदावार को नहीं बढ़ा सकते हैं । जहां तक पानी देने का सवाल है जिन जगहों पर नहरें हैं भी वहां पर भी सिंचाई के लिए पानी की सप्लाई बहुत इरेंगुलर है । उनको ठीक से पानी नहीं मिल पाता है । सिंचाई की व्यवस्था बिल्कुल इरेंगुलर है । नतीजा इसका यह है कि जहां पर धान की दो या तीन फसलें उगाई जा सकती हैं वहां केवल धान की एक फसल हो पाती है । यदि राइस पेडी की नर्सरी के लिये बरसात के पहले पानी मिल जाये तो उसका लाजिमी नतीजा यह होगा कि एक फसल की जगह पर हम दो या तीन फसलें तक आसानी से कर लेंगे । हमको इस बात को देखना है कि जहां इर्रीगेशन फेसेलेटीज मौजूद हों वहां पर ठीक समय से पानी मिले, नर्सरी के लिये ठीक समय से पानी मिले । इसमें कोई संशय नहीं है कि यदि इर्रीगेशन फेसेलेटीज जहां पर हों वहां पर ठीक तरह से पानी देने की व्यवस्था कर दी जाये तो खेती की पैदावार बढ़ जायेगी ।

जहां तक किसानों को अच्छे बीज उपलब्ध करने का प्रश्न है, मन्त्रालय की १९६०-६१ की रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है कि द्वितीय पांचसाला योजना के आखिर तक लगभग चार हजार सीड मल्टीप्लिकेशन फार्म खोले जायेंगे, जबकि इस सम्बन्ध में टारगेट ४,३२८ फार्म खोलने का था । चूंकि मेरे निर्वाचन क्षेत्र, चन्दौली, में भी एक सीड मल्टीप्लिकेशन फार्म है, इसलिये इस विषय में जानकारी होने के कारण मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जैसे सीड किसान अपने यहां तैयार कर लेता है, वैसे इन फार्म्स में तैयार नहीं हो पाते हैं। सरकार को इस तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिये । फार्म्स खुलें, लेकिन खुलने के बाद वहां कैसे सीड्ज पैदा होते हैं, इस पर नियन्त्रण होना चाहिये । इस बात का प्रबन्ध करना चाहिये कि फार्म्स में व्यवस्था ऐसी अच्छी हो कि अच्छे बीज सारे देश को दिये जा सकें ।

18 hrs.

इस रिपोर्ट में यह भी कहा गया है कि २३ लाख टन नाइट्रोजनस फर्टीलाइजर्ज की जरूरत है, लेकिन उसकी जगह इम्पोर्ट किये गये और इस देश में तैयार किये गये फर्टीलाइजर्ज की मात्र, केवल ९ लाख टन है, जिसका नतीजा यह है कि १३, १४ लाख टन फर्टीलाइजर्ज की कमी है । मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि यदि किसानों को अच्छे फर्टीलाइजर नहीं पहुंचाये गये, तो उसका लाजिमी नतीजा यह होगा कि खाद्य के बारे में हम आत्म-निर्भर नहीं हो पायेंगे ।

माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय ने मुझे दस मिनट का समय दिया है, इसलिये एक और बात कह कर मैं समाप्त करता हूं । आज हमें ऐसे कैडर्ज की जरूरत है, जो गांवों में वैज्ञानिकों खोजों और टैक्निकल रिसर्च के परिणामों और फैक्टों को किसानों तक पहुंचा सकें । यदि हम इस रिपोर्ट में दिये गये आंकड़ों को देखते हैं, तो ज्ञात होता है कि अक्तूबर, १९६३ तक हमको ५० हजार ग्राम सेवकों की जरूरत है, जिसमें से ४२ हजार तैयार हो चुके हैं और ७ हजार ट्रेनिंग ले रहे हैं । जहां तक ग्राम-सेविकाओं का सम्बन्ध है, १० हजार ग्राम-सेविकाओं की जरूरत है, जबकि लगभग २,६०० प्रशिक्षित हो चुकी हैं और लगभग ८०० की ट्रेनिंग हो रही है । इससे उनका कोटा पूरा नहीं होगा । मैं आपसे यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इन ग्राम सेवकों और ग्राम-सेविकाओं को किसी भी एक्सपर्ट के सामने रख कर और उनको कोई एक फील्ड देकर इस बात की जांच की जाये कि उनको कितना ज्ञान है और वे किसानों को विज्ञान

[श्री प्र० ना० सिंह]

और टैक्नीक की कितनी सूचना दे पाते हैं, उत्पादन बढ़ाने के विषय में उनकी कितनी मदद कर पाते हैं । मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि इन ग्राम-सेवकों और ग्राम-सेविकाओं की शिक्षा में आमूल परिवर्तन की आवश्यकता है । मैं तो यह सुझाव दूंगा कि यदि आवश्यकता पड़े, तो इस समय जितने दिनों की ट्रेनिंग दी जाती है, उस अवधी को दुगना या तिगुना किया जा सकता है । लेकिन उनकी ट्रेनिंग ऐसी हो, कि वे किसानों को विज्ञान और टैक्नीक की खोजों और फ़सलों के बारे में बता सकें, खेती की उन्नति करने के बारे में उनकी सहायता कर सकें, क्योंकि यदि विज्ञान की खोजों और सुधरे हुए टैक्नीक का ज्ञान गांवों तक नहीं पहुंचेगा, जब तक उत्पादन बढ़ाने के नये और सुधरे हुए तरीके किसानों तक नहीं पहुंचेंगे, तब तक खाद्यान्न के विषय में आत्म-निर्भर होने में हमारा मुल्क सफल नहीं हो सकेगा ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are 107 selected cut motions relating to the Demands under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. They may be moved subject to their being otherwise admissible.

Failure to raise the price of sugarcane in U.P. and Bihar

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced to Re. 1." (1569)

Failure of the scheme of State Trading in foodgrains

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced to Re. 1." (1570).

Failure to fix the prices of goodgrains in relation to other commodities

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced to Re. 1." (1571)

Need to raise the standard of living of agriculturists in India

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (251)

Need to fix reasonable prices of agricultural commodities on the basis of cost of production

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (252)

Need to set up a price committee to advise the Government to fix the prices of agricultural goods

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (253)

Failure to refix the price of sugarcane at Rs. 2 per maund

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (254)

Failure to check the fall in the prices of "jeera"

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (255)

Need to popularise the uses of fertilisers

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (256)

Need to lower the prices of fertilisers

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (257)

Need to give more financial aid to Gujarat State for anti-erosion measures

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (258)

Need to give improved seeds to agriculturists in time

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (259)

Need to reclaim and develop the Kutch desert in the State of Gujarat

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (260)

Need to popularise foodgrains where cash crops are grown more in proportion

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (261)

Failure to maintain parity between the prices of agricultural goods and other non-agricultural essential goods

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (273)

Failure to construct sufficient godowns for storing foodgrains in the State of Gujarat

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (274)

Need to drill more tube-wells in North Gujarat

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (275)

Need to give specific instructions to villagers regarding preservation and uses of manure

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (300)

Need to raise the prices of sugarcane to two rupees per maund

Shri Khushwaqt Rai: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (625)

Need to appoint an advisory committee to fix the price of agricultural commodities

Shri Khushwaqt Rai: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (626)

Need to start factories for producing cattle feeds in the Public Sector .

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1494)

Policy of entrusting money for agricultural research to non-official bodies like I.C.A.R.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1580)

Lack of necessary control over I.C.A.R.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1581)

Functioning of I.C.A.R.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1582)

Proportion of technical to non-technical officers in the Ministry

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1583)

Nomination of the Vice-President and other functionaries of I.C.A.R.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1584)

Need to make I.C.A.R. a governmental institution

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1585)

Over-staffing in Class I posts in the Ministry

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1586)

Unnecessary personal staff for Class I Officers

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs 100." (1587)

Need to reduce P.S.'s and P.A.'s in the Ministry

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move.

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1588)

Failure to take adequate steps to increase crop production within the country to make it self-dependent

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1589)

Failure to impart necessary scientific knowledge to the agriculturists

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1590)

Failure to co-ordinate the work of the Agriculture Department and the Department of Community Development

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100." (1591)

Failure to take adequate steps to improve the position of Horticulture

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1592)

Failure to substantially increase the production of leafy vegetables

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1593)

Failure to take adequate steps to change the food habits of the people.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1594)

Need to preserve and maintain forest wealth

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Forest' be Reduced by Rs. 100." (238)

Need to establish forest research centres in Panch Mahal, Danta, Dang and Gir areas of Gujarat State

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Forest' be Reduced by Rs. 100." (239)

Need to develop and expand the forest by growing and planting different tyes of trees

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Forest' be Reduced by Rs. 100." (240)

Failure to minimise the use of conventional timber like teak in Government construction

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Forest' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1610)

Need for adequate programme for better utilisation of minor forest produce

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Forest' be Reduced by Rs. 100." (1611)

Failure to ensure unrestrained destruction of wild life

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Forest' be Reduced by Rs. 100." (1612)

Failure to step up forest research

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Forest' be Reduced by Rs. 100." (1613)

Inadequacy of training of personnel required for Forest Department

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Forest' be Reduced by Rs. 100." (1614)

Need to establish agricultural school in each district

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (276)

Need to conduct a free tour of farmers from all over India to the Government farms at Suratgarh and other places to acquaint them with modern farming methods and implements

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (277)

Failure to start cheap grain shops in villages

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1572)

Failure to give Government waste land for cultivation to landless people

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1573).

Failure to increase production of foodgrains in the country by using the waste lands

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1574)

Need to find market for the agricultural produce

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1575)

Need to start store houses to store agricultural produce

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1576)

Need to provide tractors to plough the lands at concessional rates to the poor agriculturists

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1577)

Need to establish research centre at Baroda to find out ways and means to reduce diseases of agricultural crops

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (262)

Need to remove the anomalies in the scales of pay of class III and Class IV staff of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1550)

Need for electrification of class IV staff quarters of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Delhi

Mr. S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1551)

Need to construct more residential quarters for class IV staff of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Delhi

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be rereduced by Rs. 100." (1552).

Failure to pay arrears of House Rent and Compensatory (City) Allowances to class IV staff and Monthly men of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute for the period prior to January, 1959

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1553).

Need to revise the pay of Monthly men of the I.A.R.I. in the light of the recommndations of the Second Pay Commission.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1554).

Failure to supply uniforms to Ploughmen, Gowalas, and Malis of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1555).

Need to supply badges to the Chowkidars of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1556).

Failure to hold regular meetings of the Works Committee in the Indian Agricultural Research Institute as required under Rule 55 of the Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1557).

Need for combined seniority of all daily paid staff of all Divisions in Delhi in the Indian Agricultural Research Institute

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1558).

Failure to create class IV posts on regular establishment and transfer Monthly men and daily paid staff to these posts in the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1559).

Need to provide separate water taps in class IV staff quarters of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Delhi

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1560).

Failure to confirm temporary class IV staff of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute against the existing permanent posts

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1561).

Failure to pay arrears of House Rent and Compensary (City) Allowances to the staff of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at Nagina

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1562).

Need to intensify research on coconut and arecanut palm diseases.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1595).

Need to upgrade the Arecanut Research Station at Porcha, Palode, Kerala

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1596).

Failure to obtain help from foreign scientists in the investigation on the root and leaf diseases of coconut

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1597).

Need to equip the Arecanut Research Station to the required levels, for necessary research on the yellow leaf disease

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1598).

Need to resort to the use of radioactive isotopes etc. in investigating major epidemics in plants

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1599).

Failure of the Central Coconut Research Station at Kayenkulam, Kerala, to find out the causes and control of the root and leaf disease.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Agricultural Research' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1600).

Policy regarding the upkeep of unserviceable cattle

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1601).

Policy regarding the promotion of protective foods and their consumption

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1620)

Inadequacy of funds provided for animal husbandry.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1602)

Failure to draw up suitable policies and programmes in animal husbandry

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1604).

Failure to take adequate steps to popularise beef and pork

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1605).

Need to destroy unserviceable cattle instead of spending large sums of money on their upkeep

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1605).

Policy regarding the promotion of piggeries

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1607).

Policy regarding the upgrading of Indian breeds of cattle

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1608).

Need to take adequate steps for promoting poultry farms

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1615).

Inadequacy of research in poultry keeping

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1606)

Inadequacy of measures to help duck farming

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1618).

Inadequacy of measures to grow special breeds for meat

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the Demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1619).

Inadequacy of steps taken for collecting necessary data about the Wadge bank and Pedro bank

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100" (1620)

Policy in the exploitation of the high seas for fisheries

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1621)

Failure to popularise frog meat

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1622)

Failure to draw up a comprehensive fisheries programme, commensurate with the needs of the country.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1623)

Failure to draw up a comprehensive programme of fisheries, in relation to the resources

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1624)

Failure to organise proper research in fisheries and marine biology

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1625)

Policy in regard to the export of fisheries products

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1626)

Policy in regard to the grant of food subsidies to the State

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1627)

Failure to take proper steps to change food habits of the people and the influence of sentiments thereon

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1638)

Failure to take adequate steps to organise fishermen in co-operatives

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Animal Husbandry' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1639)

Need to stop import of foodgrains

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Purchase of Foodgrains' be reduced by Rs. 100." (248)

Need to transport imported foodgrains in scarcity areas like Andhra, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Shri M. B. Thakore: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Purchase of Foodgrains' be reduced by Rs. 100." (249)

Failure to get advantageous terms under PL 480 agreements

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Purchase of Foodgrains' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1628)

Failure to provide Indian Flag Vessels for 50 per cent of food shipment under P L 480 agreement

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Purchase of Foodgrains' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1629)

Excessive price of U.S. wheat under P L 480 programme

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Purchase of Foodgrains' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1630)

Inadequacy of provision under P L 480 agreements, to export Indian goods to U.S.A.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Purchase of Foodgrains' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1631)

Policy regarding the export of sugar

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Purchase of Foodgrains' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1632)

Failure to negotiate with countries other than U.S.A. for buying wheat

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Purchase of Foodgrains' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1633)

Failure to ensure adequate safeguards for India under P L 480 agreements.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Purchase of Foodgrains' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1634)

Policy of committing India to huge loans for purchase of food

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Purchase of Foodgrains' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1635)

Policy in getting P L 480 loans on the present conditions and terms

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Purchase of Foodgrains' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1636)

Conditions regarding interest under P L 480 agreement

Shri V. P. Nayar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Purchase of Foodgrains' be reduced by Rs. 100." (1637)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The cut motions are now before the House.

18.03 hrs.

*ALARM CHAINS ON NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

Shri Rajendra Singh (Chapra): Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Sir, a few days back, the tragic circumstances under which the well known journalist and one of the front rank patriots Shri Rama Rao died drew the attention of this House, and the hon. Minister gave some replies. When Members of Parliament questioned the wisdom of Railways in blanking off alarm chains for their own failure to check unauthorised pulling, the Railway Minister said that it was a matter of opinion, meaning, perhaps, that there can be more than one opinion about the wisdom or unwisdom of blanking off, and about the failure or success to check unauthorised pulling. He added that instructions had been issued that, where there was large-scale unauthorised pulling of chains, the apparatus should be blanked off, and that that constituted a very good reason. One or two persons might be inconvenienced by this, but unauthorised chain pulling on a large-scale caused inconvenience to hundreds or thousands.

18.05 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The argument boils down to this. If even two or three persons are put to very great difficulties, still inconvenience should be avoided to hundreds of thousands of people. To my mind, it is a very strong argument.

But, for some people, there can be another set of arguments. Some people misuse pavements on the sides of roads, and vendors occupy them much to the inconvenience of pedestrians. So, let us dig up all pavements and efface them from existence. Similarly, there can be another argument for some other people. Some people prefer false complaints in police stations and waste the time of police officers. So, let them refuse to accept any complaints from anybody. Similarly, some people send false alarms to fire brigade through telephone; so, let us blank off all telephone calls to fire fighting units.

Mr. Speaker: What is all this? You must suggest some other better methods. What is the point in accusing Government?

Shri Rajendra Singh: I was giving a set of arguments.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will kindly hear me. We are conscious of this problem and question after question has been put about dacoities, women being robbed or killed and persons being detained. Also, some people fell down, somebody's nose was cut off; all these things are there. Therefore, the hon. Minister and others are trying to do their best. This is one idea which has struck them and they have found some results on account of this. If you want to make any other suggestion, why do you not do that? Then we can see the balance of inconvenience, and consider how far the inconvenience caused by want of alarm chain is more dangerous than the other inconvenience. We can suggest alternative methods. There is no meaning in accusing the Government. There is also no need for quoting any analogy. After all, we are racing for time and this is only a half-an-hour discussion. The hon. Member may suggest. "Throw it open, as before, and take a chance". Then, let him not come again and complain. He can give concrete suggestions. They will implement them. After all, they are also human beings. They are trying their very best with all their experience to deal with this problem.

Shri Rajendra Singh: I agree with you that suggestions should be given to the Government to meet certain difficult situations. But, as you know, Sir, this Government is very very indifferent.

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*Half-an-Hour Discussion.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow this sort of discussion. Half-an-hour discussion is not meant for quarreling with the Government. If the hon. Member has got any suggestions, let him give them.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Government is not indifferent to sensible suggestions.

Shri Rajendra Singh: Many a time, even when there is a consensus of opinion in this House, Government has not paid any heed to that. I can cite my own instance.

Mr. Speaker: Let him come to the suggestions straightway.

Shri Rajendra Singh: The question is this. The argument of the Railway Ministry is that there is heavy incidence of chain pulling in certain parts of the country and that, in order to reduce its incidence and thereby the inconvenience of the travelling public, it has blanked off the alarm chains. As you all know very well, there has been the tragic death of a very great person in this country. Something had happened in my case as well. Last time.

Mr. Speaker: I allowed a discussion on this matter only because it is very important.

Shri Rajendra Singh: Last time my life would have been in danger.

Mr. Speaker: We are happy that he is alive. It is only because of the gravity of the matter. I have allowed this discussion. If only the alarm chain could have been pulled in that case, possibly he could have been saved. But there is also the other side. Suppose a man pulls the chain unnecessarily and runs away before he is caught. So, we have to see the balance between the two. What is his concrete suggestion? What does he want the Minister to do?

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): There are only three minutes left now.

Shri Rajendra Singh: But what could I do? If he thinks he could do better, let him come here and give his suggestions. Further, Sir, this discussion was not taken up in time according to this watch.

Mr. Speaker: If he does not come to the point, how can I help it?

Shri Rajendra Singh: The point is that on the one hand you have the difficulties and on the other you have the danger to the lives of the travelling people. Some way has to be found out. The genius of this country must find out some ways so that people travel without any inconvenience and at the same time the lives of the people can be saved.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Let the genius suggest them.

Shri Rajendra Singh: The genius is on that side of the Chair. I am trying to evoke the genius that is there. It is a psychological as well as a social question. It is psychological in the sense that some people have taken into their head to interfere with law and order. For that matter the law and order situation should be improved, for example, the police and certain things that you have within your control and at your disposal either in the Centre or in the States. Those should be improved adequately to an extent where you can be able to tackle the lawless elements.

The second thing is the lack of social consciousness. We have to impress on the minds of our people that chain pulling is not only bad from the railways point of view but it is bad also from the point of view of national character. So there can be two ways. The first is to strengthen our police and to instruct the police that such cases are to be dealt with very severely. For that the strength of the police might be increased. The other point is creating consciousness in the minds of the people whoever they are. There I also can contribute and many

hon. Members of Parliament, whether they are on this side or on that side, can also make a certain contribution.

Incidentally, the constituency where I come from is blacklisted by the hon. Minister.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is notorious for that.

Shri Rajendra Singh: My suggestion is this. Suppose there are 500 constituencies in the country. In Bihar and everywhere we have constituencies. There are hon. Members of Parliament. There are members of the Assemblies. There are Gram Panchayats and so many committees. There are responsible persons. If a certain element of trust and confidence is put in the publicmen and responsibility is cast upon them by the hon. Minister I would say that there would immediately be a distinct improvement in the situation. Instead of blanking it off and putting the lives of the people in jeopardy that should be done.

Sir can I have five minutes more, because six minutes were taken away.....

Mr. Speaker: No, absolutely not. The hon. Member is saying only what he had been saying.

Shri Rajendra Singh: I am making suggestions, as you directed me to do. I am simply giving suggestions. I have given up criticising the Government.

Mr. Speaker: This suggestion that the entire community must be taught better lessons to behave better is not a suggestion which can immediately carry weight. The hon. Member can also do it and I can also do it.

Shri Rajendra Singh: I have also said that the police should be strengthened.

Mr. Speaker: His first point is over. Secondly, he said that the police must be strengthened. Thirdly, he says that public opinion must be created.

Shri Rajendra Singh: That is point number one.

Mr. Speaker: Then what is his third point?

Shri Rajendra Singh: The third point is that in every compartment, at least in first class and second class compartments, in certain mail or express trains they have conductor guards. Those conductor guards must have certain means at their disposal so that they can be able to hold up the train when there is some such situation or some difficulty like that. Suppose, I am travelling in a first-class compartment and there is a conductor guard there. Suppose, I am in difficulty, or my compartment catches fire as it happened a year ago. I put it on record.

Mr. Speaker: Does he mean to say that in every compartment there should be a conductor guard?

Shri Rajendra Singh: Whatever is possible should be done. There are certain trains in which you have conductor guards even in third class sleeping coaches. These conductor guards must be supplied with certain means by which, if they find some difficulty, the train may be stopped. It is within the means of Government. For that matter there are TTEs, and there are some other type of railway workers. These railway servants must be entrusted with the further responsibility that if there is any difficulty or danger they should stop the train. These are certain suggestions which the hon. Minister may take into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Shri S. M. Banerjee.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I will take only three minutes.

Mr. Speaker: He may ask three questions or put in three suggestions.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, when on the last occasion this question was actually discussed here, the hon. Deputy Minister said that in some of the trains, much against their wish, they have blanked off these alarm chains, even in ladies' compartments, because of the fear that men may get into these compartments. We have now to consider which is the lesser of the two evils.

Sir, in this very House we passed a piece of legislation increasing the penalty for misuse of these chains from Rs. 50 to Rs. 250. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the enhancement of the penalty from a fine of Rs. 50 to Rs. 250 had the desired effect and what steps have been taken by the Railway Ministry for the implementation of this measure?

My second suggestion is this. It is a question of balancing the inconvenience of a few against the inconvenience of many. It is said that the use of alarm chains inconvenience many, while if they are blanked, the inconvenience will be confined to a few. To this my submission is this. Supposing you want to stop goondaism or criminal behaviour of a particular man who wants to pull a chain and remain there. After the blanking off of these chains a criminal gets into a compartment. The next stoppage is after thirty miles. Within these thirty miles he can do whatever he likes. The train cannot be stopped. If the alarm chain were there, somebody could stop it. If I were asleep, Mr. Vittal Rao or Mr. Rajendra Singh can pull the chain and stop the train. This was what actually happened in the case of the late Mr. Rama Rao. Nobody could stop the train for thirty miles until it reached Buxar.

Mr. Speaker: Was it a night train?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): It was a day train.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister considers this to be a nuisance. It is a nuisance no doubt. But how are we to avoid it? Suppose a man gets into a train with a view to molest a woman or do harm to a passenger. If there is no alarm chain he can remain in the compartment till the next stop. If the chain were there, some gentlemen would pull it and stop the train and get the man arrested. My submission is that the inconvenience will have to be weighed against the convenience and a balance struck. If the misuse of alarm chain is an anti-social activity, I am constrained to say that this action on the part of the Railway Ministry is actually felt by many people as another anti-social activity, which is affecting the society as a whole.

Mr. Rama Rao's death may be a solitary instance. There may be ever so many deaths not only on the NER, but on other railways as well.

In fact the enhancement of the penalty to Rs. 250 is not notified in most of the trains, and the boards still carry the old penalty of Rs. 50. I know there is a change. But suppose I am travelling with my family, and one fine morning I find unfortunately there is no change.

So my first suggestion will be this. Now the penalty has been increased to Rs. 250. You must see that it is implemented properly. Secondly, there should be the alarm chain. This must be continued. And those who misuse the alarm chain must be punished effectively. Otherwise this will add to the worries of the people.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad (Gaya): May I put a question? Is it possible to instal telephones in the first and second class compartments connecting the passengers with the guard?

Shri Achar (Mangalore): The only point I want to suggest is this. The alarm chains have been removed because the persons in the compartment do not disclose as to who pulled the alarm chain. Can we not have some

legislation by which if the persons in the compartment do not disclose this information, a punitive tax may be imposed against all of them? I mean, if they do not disclose that information, the fine must be collected from all the persons in the compartment. Can we not have some legislation of that kind?

Shri S. L. Saksena (Maharajganj): I suggest that the penalty for pulling the alarm chain should be increased. It should be made imprisonment for at least three months; because, I do not think people should be allowed to indulge in this kind of folly which endangers the lives of men as has happened in the case of Shri Rama Rao. And we should see that the people who do this mischief are not allowed to go scot-free. If this is done people will be afraid of pulling the alarm chains. This nuisance should not be allowed to continue. It will be a worthy memorial to Shri Rama Rao if as a result of his sacrifice we restore this convenience of alarm chains to the travelling public.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): I want to ask the hon. Minister whether there is any substitute for the blanking off of these alarm chains to protect the passengers? I think there is no substitute, and therefore the blanking off of these alarm chains has to be discontinued even though it might affect the running of the trains. There is no other way of ensuring the safety of the passengers.

Shri Rajendra Singh: Is it a suggestion, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: He is not able to think of an alternative suggestion. So his only suggestion is: let the arrangement continue.

Shri Rajendra Singh: Is he not challenging your decision to have this half-an-hour discussion if it is so fruitless?

Mr. Speaker: Very good. In that case, the hon. Member suggested this, and he must withdraw it!

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Sir, I am thankful to you for placing the suggestion in a proper perspective. You have posed the question, as a question of balance of convenience, and as to what is the alternative. That is the crux of the matter.

My hon. friends have suggested that enhanced punishment must be there, the fine must be increased, imprisonment should be there, etc. But the whole thing is begging the question. Where is the culprit to be punished? We are not able to catch him. It is only when we catch the culprit that we can go to the court and punish him. We know in which carriage the alarm chain was pulled. Immediately the guard rushes there and the underguard comes. But if you go and ask the people as to who did it, nobody opens his mouth, nobody would disclose who did it. Unless you are able to catch the culprit, how can you punish him? What is the use of raising the fine from Rs. 50 to Rs. 250? Even if it is raised to Rs. 2,500, unless we catch hold of the man....

Shri Rajendra Singh: Then why was this Bill brought and passed into an Act? If the situation is so bad that you cannot catch hold of the culprit, what was the object in bringing the Bill—raising the fine from Rs. 50 to Rs. 250 or imprisonment for three months—and getting it passed?

Mr. Speaker: Has there been a single case, one out of hundred, where the person has been caught for improper pulling of the chain and punished to the extent of Rs. 250?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: We have instructed the Magistrates to take very severe action.

Mr. Speaker: What is the actual practice? Have they done so?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: We have instructed them. But the difficulty is in catching the culprits.

Mr. Speaker: If there is a deterrent punishment, we will assume that one

[Mr. Speaker]

man is punished out of a hundred; ninety-nine may escape. Is there a case where the magistrates have imposed this enhanced penalty or are they letting off the persons merely with a fine of two or three rupees?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: No. We have advised them to impose deterrent punishment. With regard to the particulars I shall have to find out, but we have advised them to impose deterrent sentences.

Mr. Speaker: They must also see whether it is enforced or not; if it is not enforced then a more deterrent sentence, as has been suggested by Shri S. L. Saksena may be necessary, and that question may have to be considered. I do not suggest that, but that is what the hon. Member is suggesting.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The other point is this. It is not as if it is a matter of pleasure for us to blank off the chains. It is not at all so. That is the last resort. We tried every method. In fact, I may relate to you what all steps we have taken. It was in the ultimate resort that we had to blank off these chains.

My hon. friend has been suggesting that the alternative would be to have one man in each coach. It is not possible. We cannot have a man in each coach.

Shri Achar: Non-disclosure of the person in the compartment who has pulled the chain may be made an offence, and a strict punishment may be given for that.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I am coming to that suggestion. My hon. friend wants that a punitive tax should be imposed on all the persons who are there in that compartment.

Mr. Speaker: Then, nobody, will travel in a train. Supposing some goonda comes, pulls the chain and then runs away, the people in the compartment would be just blinking.

Shri S. L. Saksena: I cannot believe that they cannot catch even half a dozen such persons.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: That is an impracticable suggestion. As I said, it gives us no pleasure to do it. We have done it because the incidence of chain-pulling has been the highest on the North-Eastern Railway. I shall disclose certain facts in this connection.

Shri Rajendra Singh: Is that any argument?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Yes, it is an argument.

Shri Rajendra Singh: I can also advance certain arguments to criticise Government. But we want to give only some suggestions as to how to improve the situation.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister is only trying to establish that all the other suggestions are useless.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I shall try to justify why we did it. From that, I shall come to meet his arguments.

In the North-Eastern Railway alone, in 1957, the number of cases of chain-pulling was as much as 5227, of which, 95·5 per cent. was unjustified; in 1958, the number was 7866, and of these 96·1 per cent. was unjustified. In 1959, it rose up to 11,382, of which 97·1 per cent. was unjustified.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: How many people were punished?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: In 1960, the cases of chain-pulling rose to 13,667, of which 84·9 per cent. was unjustified. Thus, within a period four years, the number of cases of chain-pulling has increased by over a hundred per cent.

Shri S. L. Saksena: But how many people were punished?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: From about 5200 odd it has gone up to about 13,000 odd.

Mr. Speaker: How many of them have been punished, and what steps have been taken to reduce it?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I shall read out all the steps that we are taking. The general steps that we have taken are as follows: Firstly, we have carried on a campaign against this evil by press and by posters and also by announcement in microphones provided at important stations. The second is by taking of the students round the trains by the control officers, so as to enable them to understand the extent of dislocation and detention of trains that would result through misuse. We have taken them also round....

Mr. Speaker: It is not as if anybody is not aware of it, but this is deliberate misuse by micreants who want to pull the chains and stop the trains, for their own purposes. What is the deterrent punishment that has been given to them?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: This is the instruction that we have given to them regarding the punishment. We have also impressed on the trying magistrates the dislocation of the train services and the disruption of punctuality and the inconvenience caused to passengers as a result of the unauthorised pulling and submitted to them to consider imposing adequate penalty as is provided in the Act.

Shri S. L. Saksena: How many were punished?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: If the suggestion is that increased punishment will meet the situation, then, I would say this.....

Mr. Speaker: Everybody knows that it causes inconvenience. But, supposing a man loses his child or his child falls down from the train, and then the chain is pulled, nobody is going to quarrel with that. As the hon. Minister has said, 97 per cent. or thereabouts of these 13,000 odd cases are improper and illegal. Those persons have done it deliberately. But, normally, after all, nobody gets up and pulls the chain, because it is not within easy reach, and one has to raise his hands and then deliberately pull it. But there are fellows who have done so far various reasons, merely to obstruct the train, or for other reasons; for instance, he may take away some property, pull the chain, halt the train and then run away with that property. What is the deterrrent punishment that is given in such cases? It is not by mere persuasion that these fellows can be asked to desist from such thing. What is the deterrent punishment that he has been imposed? Has the hon. Minister got any figures?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I have not got the figures with regard to that.

Mr. Speaker: The alternative would be this, namely that if something occurs, the passenger would be helpless; suppose a person falls down from the train, then the other passengers are helpless, because the chain has been blanked off, in order to save some time. After all, the chain has been blanked off, in order to save some time; that is all the purpose of that. But what about the loss of life? If there is some real accident, is the hon. Minister going to say that passengers must guard against such accidents themselves, but he is more worried about the spending of some more time? In fact, there has been an instance recently where a life has been lost.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: My submission is that the danger to the travelling public has been exaggerated.

Mr. Speaker: I mentioned one instance. I do not want to take the time. But I will cite an instance where I myself was in this trouble. When I was travelling in the GT Express, a

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young fellow appeared at the outside of my first-class compartment. He said it was raining and he wanted to get in. The train was nearing Mathura; it was somewhere near a forest. The time was 10.30 P.M. I asked the boy how he came there. I was afraid that he might fall down. He was a young man of 20 or 25. He told me that he belonged to the catering section. Then I asked him. 'Where is your badge'? He was not able to show it. Then I was considering what I should do. If he was really a *bona fide* person, he might fall down and die. If he was not so, he might kill me inside the compartment. Therefore, I tried to pull the chain and stop the train.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: And he ran away?

Mr. Speaker: Are soon as I pulled the chain, he ran away.

So this was difficulty. If it was a genuine case, he might fall down because it was raining and he was shivering. If, on the other hand, I had let him inside. I would have got into trouble. Therefore, if the chain had not been there, what would have happened to me?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: You have put the real question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: If the chain had not been there, possibly after a time I would have yielded to his importunities.

Therefore, I am suggesting that during night time it may not be blanked off, because there is greater danger during night than during the day. Leave alone the case of Shri Rama Rao which happened during day time. I would also suggest that between short runs, between small stations the chain may be removed, but if it is a long distance train or through train, the chain may be kept.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I submit that the danger will be enhanced? If there are goondas in the train, at night they may stop it, commit murder or dacoity and run away.

Mr. Speaker: But if someone falls down, what happens?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Suppose goondas or dacoits enter the compartment. If there is no chain to pull, it will continue for, say, 30 miles until the train stops at the next station.

Mr. Speaker: Hereafter in ladies' compartments, there must be female police with revolvers and other things.

This is a matter in which all of us are interested. There is no question of criticising the hon. Ministers. They are doing their best.

Shri S. L. Saksena: My experience is that when there is chain pulling, the Railway Staff do not try to find out the culprits. The culprits leave as soon as the train stops. If there was a real attempt made to apprehend them, they could have caught them and punished them.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: We have even announced a reward of Rs. 50 to any person who assists us in capturing the culprit. If you are pleased to say that we should raise this amount of reward, we shall gladly do it.

Mr. Speaker: I can only suggest that during the night, the chain may not be blanked off. For short distances—short trains—there may not be chain in the train.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We will examine that. But the fact may also be appreciated that the blanking off is not for the entire run of the train. It is only for a section where this evil is very acute. Suppose there is a train from Calcutta to Delhi. The chain is not blanked off for the whole distance from Calcutta to Delhi. It is blanked off in between two sections where this evil is very rampant. But I will get your suggestions examined.

Shri S. L. Saksena: The only way to meet this evil is not to blank off the alarm chains but to punish the people who misuse it.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Certainly. I agree with my hon. friend. But for that public co-operation is indispensable. Unless we receive the full co-operation of the travelling public, it is very difficult to detect the culprits.

Shri S. L. Saksena: My complaint is tha they do not try to find out the culprits.

Mr. Speaker: If the chain is pulled, does it automatically stop the train?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It automotically stops the train. A signal comes from the coach in which the chain has been pulled. So when the chain is pulled, we locate the coach, but we are not in a position to locate the individual. We only know that the chain has been pulled from a particular coach. So immediately the guard goes to that coach. Then the question is to find out who has pulled the chain. There the co-operation of the passengers is necessary. If we get the co-operation of the passengers in finding out the particular person who has pulled chain, the enhanced penalty will become effective. But the co-operation of the travelling public is indispensable in the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Give the money to the Guard or the man there and let him say, 'We will give you the money; come along, show the culprit'.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will do that also, Sir. I am prepared to accept your suggestion or any suggestion that will help us.

Shri Achar: That is where my suggestion comes. If they do not co-operate a punitive tax may be put; take deterrent action against them. Enhance the penalty. If necessary have even imprisonment. They should really come forward and give evidence. It is an offence; if they do not come forward and give evidence, make it an offence. Have deterrent punishment once or twice and the whole thing will disappear.

Shri S. L. Saksena: They very fact that they cannot give the number of people who have been punished shows that the attempt has not been made to find out the culprits.

श्री विभूति मिश्र (बंगला) : एक बात है कि गार्ड को कुछ मदद की जरूरत है। अगर कोई बदमाश चेन खींचता है और गार्ड कम्पार्टमेंट में जाता है तो कोई मुसाफिर डर के मारे नाम नहीं लेता और गार्ड अकेला पड़ जाता है। इसलिये गार्ड को मदद देने का कोई इन्तिजाम जरूर होना चाहिये। गार्ड अकेला कुछ नहीं कर सकता।

Shri Jagjivan Ram: In important trains during night—in most of the trains—we have armed guard already—not in compartments. It is not possible to post guards in every compartment, because according to the Police no single individual should be allowed to travel with arms. No armed guard should be allowed to travel alone. There should be at least a party of two from the safety point of view. The police travel as a party. If an individual is allowed to travel singly he may be attacked by the goondas and the arms taken away from him. Now, in the important night trains we are providing armed escorts.

I was happy to have this discussion because we may get some concrete suggestions from the hon. Members. I will get the one or two points that you have suggested examined.

Mr. Speaker: One other thing I would submit to the hon. Minister for his consideration is, it is not only the case of a person falling down. We will assume that a goonda gets into the compartment as a bona fide passenger with a ticket; and, on the way, he waylays somebody and as

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soon as the train stops at a particular station he jumps off and runs away. What happens then? They cannot even pull the chain. The balance of inconvenience seems to be the danger.

In one way it stops the train and the train is prevented from proceeding. The other thing is that, inasmuch as dacoities and other things are occurring in trains and the miscreants jump of, the passengers seem to be helpless. The balance seems to be in favour of continuing the arrangement.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The pulling of the chain does not only affect the punctuality or performance of the train but there is danger to the life and property of the passengers as well. It is not that the chain is pulled only to detain a train or to affect its punctuality. But it is done with criminal motives as well. What you have said applies in one sense. In the other sense, and also experience has been that some goonda elements have entered the trains, terrorised the passengers, and there hav been instances where one or two passengers have been killed also. The chain was not blanked off there and the advantage of the chain was taken by the culprits, and not by the passengers; when they found they were nearing stations they pulled the chain, stop the train and ran away.

Both aspects are there. And, as the Deputy Minister has explained, it is a very painful duty on our part also to blank off the chains. It is only after watching for a long period and finding that there is very acute chain pulling that we took recourse to this action. We have brought to the notice of both the U.P. Government and the Bihar Government the prevalance of this evil. We have requested them to intensify action for maintaining public order in these sectors where this chain pulling is very rampant and to impress upon the trying magistrates to award the maximum penalty to the culprits who are apprehended.

These are the steps we are taking. Any other suggestion or advice that could be helpful in this matter is welcome. If any suggestion is made by the Members of the House—not just now; they may write to me also—I will welcome that. I will myself ask my technical people, the mechanical engineering people, whether we can further think of certain other devices.

Mr. Speaker: Out of these 13,000 cases, how many relate to cases where there has been molestation, dacoities and thefts? I only want to know whether these were done only for the purpose of obstruction—just goondaism indulged in by boys. How many of these were cases, where, as the hon. Minister has said, the goondas wanted to take advantage of it and run away? Have you got any figures?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: We have no figures about unjustified cases but. . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: There may be only a few. After all, these chain pullings are all done by urchins or some others who want to come in. If the Government are able to give figures and fact, as to how many cases were there in respect of murder or something else, for which the trains were stopped and so on, in how many cases there were dacoities, thefts, and so on, that could be done.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have got the figures. We enquired from the railways whether criminal activities have increased in those sectors due to the blanking off of the chain. That point, was ascertained by us and our information is that they have not. We ascertained from the railways, whether, in the sections where the alarm chain apparatus has been blanked off, there has been any increase in the criminal activity on the running trains. And the reply that we have

received from the railways is that due to blanking off, there has been no increase.

Shri Rajendra Singh: As I told you, Sir, I was travelling in a mail train a year before, and the compartment caught fire. After about 15 miles the train was stopped. In the meantime, some portions of the compartment had been burnt. The fire could have been of such a proportion that I could have lost my life. Suppose that happened, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Railway Ministry will give compensation to my family or not.

Mr. Speaker: For instance, in the Southern Railway, if a passenger was travelling in the first class compartment and the bogie caught fire, and then the man disappeared,....

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: There is no question of blanking off there.

Shri Rajendra Singh: My question was a pertinent one. If they do not give compensation or arrange for any such things, how do we travel with a sense of security? (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We have had sufficient discussion.

Shri Rajendra Singh: I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government will give compensation to the dependants if such a situation arises.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, you have made a very valuable suggestion. Our suggestions may not be accepted, but I feel there is a genuine case. We must discuss this entire matter threadbare very objectively. I request the hon. Minister to continue the alarm chain system, because it is more of convenience to the people than inconvenience to some. That is my request.

Shri S. L. Saksena: Will the Minister find out the number of people who have been punished and the nature of punishment?

Mr. Speaker: Since how long has the blanking off been there?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: From 1956.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is not continuous for two or three years. It is blanked off for certain periods. In certain sectors where we find that this nuisance has increased very much, it is blanked off for a period.

Mr. Speaker: After all, those boys or others come in and try to stop the train. Sometimes it becomes a habit for them and in such cases blanking off has no purpose. On the other hand, the blanking off may be resorted to for three or four months, for a period, when there is need. I am only suggesting the lesser of the two evils. The passengers also should know.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Yes; they should know whether the chain is there or not. Otherwise, it is dangerous.

Shri D. C. Sharma: For sometime, in the required areas, the Railway Ministry should keep plain-clothed detectives in every compartment, so that if anybody comes to create trouble he may be apprehended. Now, they are depriving the public of the only means of safety the train.

Mr. Speaker: In some areas, cannot we have the travelling ticket collectors and so on in plain clothes? Give them plain dress. They have got so many ticket collectors. Let them concentrate in those areas and let them disperse after the work is over. They may disperse thereafter, within that area. This may be tried.

There is no intention on the part of any hon. Member to embarrass the Minister. All of us jointly are interested in seeing that less of harm is there. This chain is a safety measure. If it goes, there may be some difficulty. There may be one, occurrence; God forbid there should be more. All these devices in that area may be tried. The hon. Minister will try to do it and let us see.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: To be very frank, we have already tried these devices and we are trying. We are already trying the method suggested by my hon. friend, Shri D. C. Sharma in certain areas.

An Hon. Member: That is for ticketless travelling.

Mr. Speaker: They will be instructed to do both.

Shri D. C. Sharma: When you have a trouble like that travelling in first class, you can understand the conditions of passengers in third class, second class, etc. This is very alarming. (*Interruption*). I must submit very respectfully that the Railway Ministry have to take upon their shoulders the responsibility for the safety of the passengers. If they cannot find any other device, they must keep the chains and they should put plain clothed-detectives with a revolver under their clothes.

An Hon. Member: All this will cost money.

Shri D. C. Sharma: It does not matter how much it will cost the railways. After all, the railways are making money and they should be responsible for the safety of passengers.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मन्त्री महोदय को मेरा सुझाव यह है कि ट्रबल्ड एरियाज में रेलवे प्रोटेक्शन पुलिस के लोग प्लेन ड्रेस में तैनात न करें बल्कि वह पुलिस की वर्दी में रहें और व फुल्ली आर्म्ड हों।

Shri S. L. Saksena: May I know how many people have been punished and the nature of the punishment awarded for chain-pulling?

Mr. Speaker: Has he got the figures to show how many people have been punished for chain-pulling?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: No, Sir

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will give the details.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Since the instance of Shri Rama Rao, we are very anxious.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: We will furnish the information.

18:48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 17, 1961/Chaitra 27, 1883 (Saka).

[*Saturday, April* 15, 1961/*Chaitra* 25, 1883 [*Saka*]

COLUMNS

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE . . . 1125—27

A copy each of the following Notifications was laid on the Table under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :—

(*i*) The Rajasthan Rice (Export Control) Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 472 dated the 4th April, 1961.

(*ii*) Notification No. G.S.R. 503 dated the 5th April, 1961 rescinding—

(*a*) The Bombay Wheat (Movement Control) Order, 1956 ;

(*b*) The Inter-Zonal Wheat Movement Control Order, 1957 ;

(*c*) The Wheat (South Zone Export Control) Order, 1958 ;

(*f*) The West Bengal Wheat (Export Control) Order, 1958 ;

(*g*) The Delhi (Restriction on Import of Wheat Atta) Order, 1959 ; and

(*h*) The Delhi Wheat and Wheat Products (Export Control) Order, 1959.

(*iii*) The Manipur Foodgrains (Movement) Control Amendment Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 504 dated the 5th April, 1961.

(*iv*) The Bihar Foodgrains (Movement Control) Amendment Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 505 dated the 5th April, 1961.

(*v*) The Uttar Pradesh Foodgrains (Restrictions on Border Movement) Amendment Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 506 dated the 5th April 1961.

(*vi*) The Rajasthan Foodgrains (Restrictions on Border Movement) Amendment Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 507 dated the 5th April, 1961.

(*vii*) The Madhya Pradesh Foodgrains (Restrictions on Border Movement) Second Amendment Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 508 dated the 5th April, 1961.

(*viii*) Notification No. G.S.R. 509 dated the 5th April, 1961 cancelling the Assam Wheat and Wheat Products (Export) Control Order, 1958.

(*ix*) Notification No. G.S.R. 510 dated the 5th April, 1961 cancelling the West Bengal Wheat or Wheat Products (Restrictions on Rail Bookings) Order, 1959.

(*x*) The Madhya Pradesh Roller Mills (Regulation of Use of Wheat) Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 511 dated the 6th April, 1961.

(*xi*) The Bihar Foodgrains (Movement Control) Second Amendment Order, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 512 dated the 10th April, 1961.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 11529—11728

(*i*) Further discussion on Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Steel Mines and Fuel concluded and the Demands were voted in full.

(*ii*) Discussion on Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture commenced. The discussion was not concluded.

HALF-AN-HOUR-DISCUSSION . . . 11729—52

Shri Rajendra Singh raised a half-an-hour discussion on points arising out of the answer given on the 4th April, 1961 to Starred Question No. 1289 regarding Alarm Chains on North Eastern Railway.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram) replied to the debate.

AGENDA FOR MONDAY, APRIL, 17, 1961/CHAITRA 27, 1883 (Saka)— .

Further discussion and voting on the Demands for grants in respect of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

GMGIPND—LS II—240 (Ai) LS—26-4-61—900